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**THE AMERICAN NEGRO SOLDIER
WITH THE RED HAND OF FRANCE**

CHAPTER I.

FORMATION OF REGIMENT

THE TRIP ACROSS

IN the great World War, as in all other wars in which this country has been engaged, the negro has proven himself to be an interesting as well as an important factor. On January 1st, 1918, when it was announced that the negro soldiers would be mobilized and sent overseas to take part in the struggle, the eyes of the world were turned on the American negro. The patriotism and fidelity of these people had been rather doubtfully viewed by those who had not been closely related to them. When the call for volunteers came the negro National Guard units rapidly recruited to war strength, and when the draft came they responded to their country's call.

The period from January 1st to June 15th, 1918, was one of preparedness on both sides of the ocean, for after the soldiers arrived in France they were compelled to undergo the trench warfare training course. Among the colored units formed and sent overseas during this period were the 365th, 366th, 367th, and 368th infantry regiments, which comprised the infantry of the 92nd Division, or "Buffaloes," as they were better known. The 369th, formerly the "Old Fifteenth," of New York, which arrived overseas on

the 27th of December, 1917, the 370th, formerly the "8th Illinois," the 371st, a regiment of drafted men from the Southern States, and the 372nd, a National Guard unit composed of the 1st Separate Battalion of Infantry from the District of Columbia, the 9th Separate Battalion from Ohio, Company "L," formerly of the Sixth Massachusetts Regiment of Infantry, and the First Separate Companies of Infantry from the States of Maryland, Connecticut and Tennessee. As the 372nd Infantry had such a large representation from various parts of the country, its movements were followed with keen interest by the families and friends of these men.

When the regiment was organized at Newport News, Virginia, there arose at once a very poignant competition in all branches. This brought about a standard of efficiency that never would have been accomplished had there been no competition. Colonel Glendie B. Young was the commanding officer, and his lieutenant colonel was Albert W. Gale. These officers, as well as all the officers of the three auxiliary companies (the machine-gun company, the supply company, and headquarters company) were white officers and those of the twelve line companies were colored. The same competition existed between the officers who were from various parts of the country, and this was one of the important factors in the development of the ability that existed in the regiment. At the time of the organization of the regiment the percentage of illiteracy was insignificant. The few unfortunate illiterates were so completely surrounded

by a progressive environment that they soon became revolutionized.

The training period at Newport News, Virginia, occupied three months, and during this time many improvements were made in the moral, educational, and physical qualities of the men. To improve the morale of the men there were daily drills supervised by the commanding officers and their assistants. These drills and lectures instilled a degree of self-confidence in each individual that was invaluable in the days that followed. They included trench-digging, which was rather a novelty, but soon regarded as a first necessity, when it was realized that this training was to be used in the future as a means of saving men.

It was encouraging to note the expressions on the faces of the groups of men as lectures were being given or instructions read. There must be recreation, as well as work, and the representatives of the 372nd Infantry proved to be good athletes and entertainers, as well as soldiers. There were baseball games, football games, basket-ball, foot-races, athletic stunts, and other sources of amusement, all of which developed in the men stern, physical qualities that many of them never dreamed of possessing. To illustrate the interest placed in athletics, a baseball game between Company "L" and Company "B" was in progress when the first call for retreat was sounded. Each of these companies had one game to their credit, and this was the determining game. Not only the players, but a great many of the spectators, some of whom were civilians, requested that they be allowed to finish

the game, which, of course, was refused. Two afternoons a week were devoted to athletics, and Sunday was usually visiting day. A number of competitive drills and Formal guard mounts were held at frequent intervals by various units in the organization. These also were witnessed by many of the civilian population, who were present even at eight o'clock in the morning to witness the daily guard mounts. Toward the middle of March the regiment paraded in Newport News, and repeated the parade a week later. That occasion made evident the decided improvement which had taken place during the ten weeks of training that the regiment had undergone.

The arrival of the first consignment of drafted men in February was greeted rather coolly by members of this National Guard unit, who had volunteered, and they felt that they should not be recognized with the men who had been inducted into the service of the country. But as time sped on these men proved to be of a superior type and made themselves a valuable asset to the enlisted personnel of the regiment. There were a number of professional men, clerks, and tradesmen among them, and these were distributed among various companies according to their needs. These men represented districts in Michigan, Illinois and Ohio. Shortly after that another consignment was attached to the regiment from Camp Lee, Virginia. This consignment represented men from the Southern States and some of the Middle Western States. By this time the regiment was approaching the war strength required by the minimum

tables. An order was soon issued to allow no more furloughs, and to begin to sort out necessary equipment. This was the first intimation of an overseas trip, and it was greeted with joy, for the life at Camp Stuart was fast becoming monotonous and the change was welcomed by one and all.

As is usual in military organizations, rumors about the date of sailing and the destination were circulated, and soon the civilian population was aware of the fact that this regiment was getting ready to leave. For a few days there were many visitors, but soon an order was issued forbidding the entrance of all visitors unless some immediate relative of the men whom they wished to see. This, of course, confirmed the rumors that had been previously circulated, and people were the more anxious to visit the camp now, for a great many friendships had been formed between the men and the civilians during the three months. However, military discipline prevailed, and the preparations were carried on without a pause until the time came for the embarkation. Large boxes and other carriers of all descriptions were constructed to contain the equipment, of which there was a tremendous quantity. Many small bundles of personal property were sent to the homes of the soldiers. This was the only means by which the families of the men learned that the regiment was about to embark for overseas service, for all telegrams, letters, etc., were held up. On the 28th of March, postal cards with the inscription "I have arrived safely overseas" were distributed among the men of the regiment to be sent to their

families. These were held until the ship landed overseas, and then were sent to the various homes. The intervening period was one of anxiety for both the soldiers and their families, for it was at least three weeks before any word was sent to any of the families. On March 29th, marching orders were issued. They indicated that the regiment was to have reveille at two o'clock on the morning of the 30th, and that all must be in readiness for the march to the ship by six-thirty that morning. All boxes, bags and other baggage were to be ready at four o'clock and details were to be furnished by each company to handle the huge amount of baggage. So it was on the 29th of March, 1918, that the boys retired for their last sleep on American soil for many months to come.

Promptly at two o'clock on the morning of March 30th, the buglers blew the signal to "wake up," and soon all were astir. From that time until four o'clock all was bustle and activity. Men were rushing to and fro in the darkness, orders were being howled out by officers, boxes were lifted and loaded, motor trucks were creaking and groaning under the loads, and the camp resembled pandemonium. But each group of men knew just what they were to do and when they were to do it. Load followed load down to the boat, and no sooner had it arrived than it was raised in large mechanical baskets and deposited in the hold. This work was carried on swiftly and quietly on account of German spies, who were alleged to be at every shipping point. So well did the men carry out the

programme, that when four o'clock arrived the last loads were leaving Camp and bound for the wharf. After a very short rest the men were given a hasty breakfast, and the kitchens and other cooking utensils were cleaned up for their final disposition. All the barracks were thoroughly "policed," and the grounds were put into first class condition, and when the time came to march, the men were well tired out.

At six o'clock the order to "fall in" was given, and there was another scramble, for each man was responsible for his own equipment, and had to carry it on his back. Soon all was in readiness and the order to march was given. The distance was slightly over a mile and it was not long before the first group of the regiment was standing on the wharf awaiting further orders. About seven o'clock the men began to embark. As each one entered the ship he was given two little cards upon which was the number of his bunk and on another was the number of his lifeboat station and the number of the mess section. After ridding themselves of their packs, the majority of the men lay down and tried to sleep, but only a few succeeded in doing so, for the excitement had not yet died down.

The ship was an old German freighter formerly named the "Rhine," renamed by the Naval Department the "Susquehanna." She was about five hundred feet long, seventy-five feet beam, and had a speed of fourteen knots. The crew was a very pleasant sort and many friendships were made during the fourteen days that were required in crossing. The entire

morning and the first part of the afternoon was spent in assigning the men to their bunks and other details that accompany the loading of a ship. At three o'clock the last of the men were told to get aboard, and the gang plank was lifted at 3:45 P. M. All hands were kept below the decks. A number of curious onlookers had gathered on the outside of the pier to witness the sailing. Many of them were friends of the men who were confined in the bowels of the ship and they looked in vain for a last glance or a last smile. A sad feeling predominated on the shore, while the feelings on the boat could scarcely be classified. Some felt the spirit of adventure, some joy in the change of location, some sadness in leaving their friends; others wondered about the future and what it had in store for them. Groups were to be seen here and there discussing the submarines, the slow speed of the boat, the spick and span condition of things and the affability of the crew. At 4:10 the ship cleared, and one short blast was sounded from the whistle. The engine then began to throb, and soon we were proceeding down the Hampton River toward the Atlantic. Except for the puffing of the tugs and an occasional shout there were no sounds to be heard. Everything was executed in grim silence. After a short time the tugs "let go," and the transport proceeded under her own steam.

When we arrived at Hampton Roads, we weighed anchor, and it was reported that we were to remain here for an indefinite period. A second ship was a short distance off our port. She was to accompany

us as a part of the convoy. The men retired early that night, and anticipated waking up on Easter Sunday morning and gazing into the beautiful harbor, but to their astonishment there was no land to be seen, even by the early risers, for the boat had pulled out shortly after dark and by dawn the next morning was well on her way. The weather was very agreeable. Services were held on board the ship by the chaplain. They were well attended both by officers and men.

The sadness that had prevailed the day before was now forgotten and the men played all sorts of games, singing, boxing, wrestling and doing other things to amuse themselves and make the time pass more rapidly. The daily routine was started on Monday morning, April first, and this consisted of details to help in the kitchen, guards, and men to perform various other duties such as messengers, police, and assistants to the ship's officers. For the first week the weather was delightful and the sea smooth, and very little seasickness prevailed. Now and then a ship would pass going in the opposite direction. These ships were signalled and if they answered all was well, but if they did not do so they were taken as an enemy craft and an investigation was the immediate result. On one occasion a ship passed and failed to give the proper signal. The battleship which was at the head of our convoy turned and pursued the ship at full speed and finally it vanished over the horizon. The battleship then resumed its place at the head of the column. This column which had been formed on the seas con-

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sisted of eight ships, and one battleship. Two were from Newport News, and the remainder sailed from Hoboken, New Jersey. On the fourth day at sea they were sighted.

When we were out nine days the order was given that no lights of any kind could be displayed at night, no rubbish or paper could be thrown overboard, and that the strictest of discipline was to be observed during the remainder of the trip, because we were now in the submarine zone. There was very little trouble in enforcing these orders as every man realized that his life and the life of perhaps all on board depended on the conduct of the individual. The gun crews were ordered to stay at their posts continually, the guards were doubled and all sorts of precautionary measures were taken to insure safety. Instructions were given regarding the lifeboats and it was made known to the men that if anything happened to their boat the others would not stop to offer assistance, but would pursue their course at full speed to preserve their own safety. It would be difficult for the reader to imagine the grim aspect of the situation, but the grimness to all outward appearance was momentary, for soon the men were engaged in their pranks and games, which continued until the last hours of the voyage. Many of the crew were so impressed by the happy-go-lucky and joyful nature characteristic of the negro that they commented frequently upon it. They had never taken such an apparently unconcerned regiment over to this disrupted and demoralized country.

On the tenth day out the weather became thick and

the sea began to get rough. While this increased seasickness, it diminished the possibility of attack by submarine. The ship tossed and rolled and pitched, and at night the water rushed over the main deck and into some of the sleeping quarters. But the morning of the eleventh day brought a change. The sun shone brightly, the clouds had disappeared and the waters had calmed considerably, but it was still rougher than we had experienced up to the previous day.

Each day we had submarine and abandon ship drills. There was a gong at both ends of the ship, and at the signal the men scurried down to their respective bunks and awaited the signal to "abandon ship." They would then get to their lifeboats as quickly as possible. This usually took about two and one-half minutes. On the eleventh day there appeared on the horizon something that resembled a submarine coming in the direction of our convoy, and gaining rapidly. The alarm was given and the boys jokingly scurried down to their bunks and awaited further orders. A moment later an explosion was heard and the ship shuddered from bow to stern. Some had seen the object on the horizon and when the explosion occurred it passed through the ship as quick as lightening that we had been struck by a torpedo. In an instant the life preservers were adjusted, some taking two and three, and a sickening feeling spread among the men. Some went so far as to say that the ship was listing, but this was all imagination. The three pounder cannon on the stern of the boat had fired and the vibra-

tion had been felt all over the ship. Even when this was found out it was some little time before the men regained their composure, but after a while games were resumed and all was well.

On the following morning the early risers that strayed on the decks discovered "destroyers" coming from all directions. The news was flashed through the ship and soon all were astir and out to see these wonderful "Policemen" of the ocean. There were fourteen in all and they completely surrounded our convoy, some going in between the vessels. At this juncture the battleship, which had so gallantly piloted us, left us and turned her nose back toward America.

The rest of the trip was accomplished without incident. On Saturday morning, April 13th, at 9:25 o'clock land was sighted, and a lusty cheer went up from 2,000 throats, for it had been looked for and hoped for all the previous day. At noon we passed Belle Isle, and then numerous smaller islands and a jut of land came into view. Many small ships, probably fishermen, were in the outer harbor. We reached the inner harbor about three o'clock that afternoon, and had to wait an hour and a half for the tide to rise to a sufficient height to allow the vessel to pass through the channel. We were surrounded by numerous small craft, for this regiment was among the first colored troops to arrive in France.

At 4:30 that afternoon the Susquehanna slowly pro-

ceeded up the beautiful Loire River and through the submarine net. Amid the cheers of thousands of spectators and the playing of lively tunes by the band she touched the dock at 8:04 P. M. Saturday night, April 13th, 1918.

CHAPTER II.

FIRST IMPRESSIONS OF FRANCE

EARLY the next morning all hands were astir, for many were anxious to set foot on land again. Others were interested in the preparations to leave the ship, while on shore were many curious and interested on-lookers. The companies were formed on deck about 7:30 A. M. and after roll call and other details the men began to leave the boat by companies, and were formed on the pier awaiting further orders. From each company was selected a detail to handle the baggage and to load and unload the trucks. The men worked in feverish haste, and truck-load after truck-load rolled off. The distance to camp was nearly three miles and consequently considerable time was employed in moving the regimental baggage from the boat, but at noon it was practically unloaded, and the afternoon was spent in designating billets, assigning guards and patrols, and other duties necessary after arrival at a new camp.

The billets or barracks were very poorly constructed, when compared with those of America. The roofs, for instance, were made of thin and poor material, which overlapped, but even then leaked badly when it rained. There were no floors and the ground was very damp as it had been raining for several days. The

beds or cots were rudely constructed, consisting only of coarse wire stretched across strips of wood which were fastened to uprights or supports and were arranged in tiers. At five o'clock a hastily prepared meal was served and shortly afterwards the men retired to their very uncomfortable beds, but even these were welcome to the tired fellows, who had labored unceasingly the whole day. In a few moments all was quiet. The men were enjoying their first sleep on foreign soil.

The morning dawned cloudy and the budding foliage was wet from the rain of the day before, but it found all hands refreshed and ready to start their routine of camp duty.

The camp was situated on a hill which afforded a very fine view of the town of St. Nazaire, through which the regiment had passed on their way. The scenery was odd, but picturesque. In the distance the Loire River wound in and out. On either side were gardens and shrubbery so artistically and fantastically arranged that they were much admired. Here and there in the distance could be seen the church tower, which is the chief characteristic of every French village and hamlet.

Between the scene and the camp lay the quiet and quaint village of St. Nazaire, a typical seaport town. The streets were narrow and crooked, with the exception of the main thoroughfare, which was more modernly constructed. The houses were in most instances built of clay, similar to our cement, and in building very little attention had been given the exact-

ness and symmetry, consequently the outside of the house did not present a very favorable appearance to the casual observer. The interior of these houses was more cheerful and agreeable, with some exceptions. These exceptions were the dwellings of the poorest class or "peasants." Fireplaces were employed for cooking and heating, and as coal was very scarce at that time, wood was the main fuel. In the yards of all the middle and poorer classes could be seen large bundles of branches and sticks which had been gathered and bundled for use in the fireplaces. In some houses there were tile floors, while others had wooden floors and many others had no floors at all. The walls were bedecked with many small articles made and arranged in the artistic manner which characterizes the French people. The roofs of these houses were built of all sorts of material. Now and then one would see an old fashioned thatched roof. The streets were kept in wonderful condition as the soil in France is especially well adapted for roadmaking. This was a valuable asset to the Allies during the war, because it greatly aided the transportation by motor trucks and wagons.

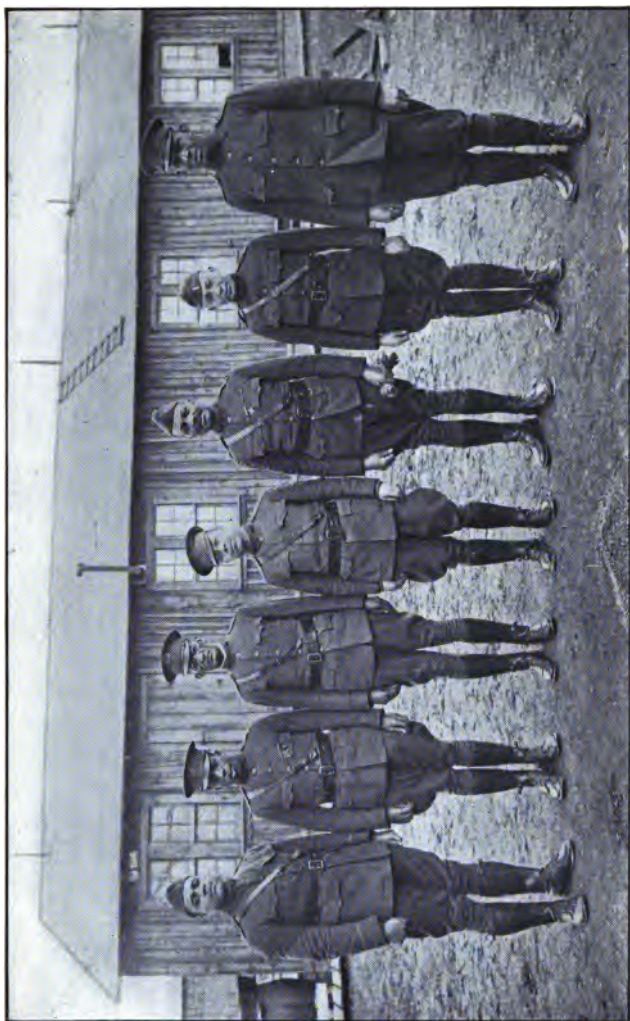
There were numerous "Cafes" and "Epiceries" where one could obtain the best vintage of France for a comparatively reasonable price. These stores and shops were kept by "jolies mademoiselles," who were very popular among the newly arrived American soldiers. The inhabitants were all of the true democratic spirit, catering alike to all. A warm welcome was

in the heart of every French inhabitant of the town, and the townspeople did not refrain from expressing it.

The day following the arrival in camp was spent in arranging formations and the detail of 1400 men which was called for on the very day of arrival. Each regimental commander promptly after his arrival was ordered to furnish as large a detail as possible. On the 15th of April the first detail was formed within the area of the camp and there awaited transportation, which was to be by the large and ponderous motor trucks to the railroad yards in the village of Montoir a few miles from St. Nazaire, and also at the docks at the lower part of the city, both places being a part of the wonderful transportation system of the American Expeditionary Forces in France. A disagreeable side of the situation presented itself with this work, which was under the supervision of white non-commissioned officers, who were among the permanent troops located at this base. Each morning after mess, these huge quarter-master trucks came to camp and were loaded to their capacity with negro infantrymen, to be taken to the railroad yards or to the docks to perform a strenuous day's toil. The first few days of this were borne in silence until one of the men became suddenly ill. An officer, thinking he was feigning illness, kicked him for talking back, making him understand that his officer was the sole judge of whether or not he was ill. The men who witnessed this unbecoming display of temper crowded around with mutinous intent. The white non-commissioned officers came to

the rescue by flourishing automatic pistols, which had been concealed up to this happening. Word was immediately sent to our colored officers, who were in charge of the main detail. When they arrived an explanation was demanded. The men who saw this act of brutality told them what had happened and assembled in their respective groups, ready to march back to camp. Before doing this, a risky proceeding in a place where prejudice predominated, they went to the commandant to inquire of him "the authority by which an officer should display such temper, when the men were doing their best to perform the work assigned them." The commanding officer of this area was non-plussed for the moment to be surrounded by colored officers, who were tactfully making known to him that they resented such brutality. He assured them that a speedy investigation would be made, and if the case was as serious as was stated by the officers, a court-martial would be ordered. When the officers came out of the commandant's office they related to the different groups the results of their conference, admonishing each group to return to their work and finish out the day's programme, but not to fear a repetition of such an unwarranted attack. The men went back to work overjoyed to know at last that officers of their own color had intervened in their behalf. This incident restrained, for the time being, the intimidating impulses that existed with the white officers and non-commissioned officers who were in charge of that area.

When the men returned from their hard day's work



A GROUP OF THE ORIGINAL OFFICERS OF THE RED HAND DIVISION

to their billets the news of this unpleasant proceeding had preceded them, and indignation was expressed on all sides, even by the colonel, notwithstanding his uncertainty of opinion. He intimated that justice should be meted out to the officer attacking one of his command in such an outrageous manner. Whether or not anything was done is not generally known, but it served to show the officers of the other race that such actions would not be tolerated, either by the officers or the men. In spite of this instance and other similar instances, the men did their work well, for it had been reported that a very short stay was to be made here, and that the regiment was soon to entrain for the interior of France. The news was greeted with applause, for the conditions here were intolerable. Beggars and peasants frequented the camp in such numbers that measures had to be taken to restrict such visits. Only when a very plausible excuse was offered could any of these people get inside the camp.

It was at this point that the first open discrimination was exhibited by the white officers of our regiment. There was one large barrack which was designated for the accommodation of the commissioned personnel of the regiments occupying this section. Thus the colored and white officers spent the first night in the same sleeping quarters. The following day, while the officers were absent on the details, a large curtain was put up between the colored and white officers' cots and the colored officers were jammed tightly in one end of the building while the white officers occupied the other end. Some of our colored

officers went to the commanding officer and demanded an explanation, but nothing satisfactory was forthcoming, and before the time came to depart from this camp most of the officers located accommodations in other parts of the camp. A feeling of disdain and disgust was justly aroused both in the negro officers and the men, and smouldered day after day, only to be aggravated by some other disagreeable event. Thus it was that the first ten days in France were spent.

On the 22nd of April orders came for the entraining of the entire regiment, and soon all was ready to move. The baggage had not been unpacked, as it was known that only a short stay was to be made here. The steps of the week before were retraced and on the other side of the town where the trains were waiting to take these men near the front line trenches hundreds of curious people gathered. Whenever there was a movement of colored soldiers in this town it seemed to attract a great deal of attention judging from the crowd that assembled so quickly. At one o'clock that afternoon the first section of the train began loading, and others loaded as soon as the preceding section left. The railway coaches of the French as we first saw them were joking reminders of the pictures we knew as children in our histories and geographies of how people traveled in the early days of America. They were divided into compartments, some of four, some of three, some of two, while those of one compartment made up the rear of the train. There were no air brakes nor springs on most of the cars. Neither were there lights nor sanitary accom-

modations of any kind. Each section was supposed to entrain a battalion, but the accommodations were not sufficient for a battalion, which consisted of about 700 men in our regiment. However, a battalion went on each section and more than once the transportation officers murmured their disapproval of the crowding and pushing that was made necessary by such a scarcity of room. The capacity of each compartment was ordinarily for six adults, but from eight to ten men with their packs and rifles were uncomfortably crowded into each of these coops to sleep and eat for nearly two days. The weather at that time was warm and it can be imagined how uncomfortable this trip was sure to be. After passing the city of Nantes, atmospheric conditions improved perceptibly, but even this did not offset the continual bumping and jostling over roadbeds, so constructed that these trains could not go over fifteen or twenty miles an hour. This monotonous suffering was forgotten on many occasions when the train would stop for instructions near some sparsely settled village or town. There the men, with the permission of the non-commissioned officer in charge of the compartment, would jump out for a breath of fresh air and a smoke. An ovation would be accorded them at each stop, and a continual waving of hands and handkerchiefs would greet the trainload of men as it slowly passed through the farming and rural districts.

On the 24th of April the first section of the regiment reached Vaubecourt-en-Barrois at seven o'clock in the evening. It was quite cool and cloudy. We were

now within sound of the guns, and the mountainous district. A grim look overspread the countenance of every man as he observed the northern horizon and saw the lights caused by the flares, signals and other instruments of war and heard the low rumbling of the guns. The remaining sections arrived at nine and ten o'clock respectively. The commanding officer of each battalion lined up his command on or near the railroad tracks for further orders. In the meantime details were unloading the baggage, in order that the coaches might be routed back to the various army bases for more troops that were daily arriving from America.

Before a distance of three kilometers was attained by the long column of men it began to rain, and in a few minutes it fairly poured. To hike in the rain was bad enough, but with packs and rifles in addition, mud and water up to one's ankles and a rest of only ten minutes out of each hour for the twelve miles, the march was a bit of soldiering that remained an everlasting memory. This gruelling hike taxed the hardest of these soldiers. Many of them fell exhausted and slept where they fell until dawn, when trucks with the regimental baggage going back and forth from Vaubecourt-en-Barrois to Conde-en-Barrois would pick them up and bring them to Conde with their baggage. Those who did "make it" slept until daylight in the quagmire while the billeting party was trying to find billets for each unit. The trip required about seven hours, and the men were without exception wet, tired, cold and hungry, but the only relief

they obtained that night was a snatch of sleep in the mud.

The people of Conde-en-Barrois awoke that morning to find their abandoned hen-coops, pig-styes, hay-lofts, cow-pens, wood-sheds, and horse-stalls full of soldiers. These places were infested with all sorts of vermin and rodents. The men were so tired after their arrival that they never questioned whether or not they were to occupy these dens of filth, but turned to, unrolled their wet packs, and proceeded to sleep and dream of the two preceding days in the stuffy compartments of the trains, and the hike. Those who could not find a "hole" to crawl into slept in the street.

When they awoke the next morning the unpleasant odor of perspiration, which had started the night before and dried on their bodies, made them very uncomfortable and soon the men were down by the stream, which ran through the town, "washing up." After this they made such improvements in their quarters as they could, for this was the place where the regiment was to change its equipment and receive French in its stead. It was impossible to find brooms, but by utilizing the boy-scout idea brushes were made of twigs, and with these a general sweeping of the whole village of Conde-en-Barrois was soon in progress, in order that these heretofore unused places might serve as homes for the men. In many cases it was necessary to wheel the dirt away in carts and wagons, for imagination can only form a vague idea of the conditions here.

On the 29th of April a training period began, after three days of sweeping and other details. The French instructors detailed by the General Headquarters of the French army to show this regiment of American soldiers the French method of trench occupation, were in most cases from Moroccan units. Very few of them could speak English and those who could were rather lax in their translations of some of the most important of the combat instructions. Therefore it was doubly difficult for the men to grasp the French method of warfare. But by taking copious notes and giving strict attention to the little they could understand the results were not only agreeable but surprising, for these black soldiers, who had been termed by some American as "impossible and dull of comprehension" learned with such rapidity that much favorable comment was forced from the lips of both French and American officers. A weekly summary of this progress was submitted to the division commander. The training consisted of trench construction, instruction on the construction and purposes of the various grenades, handling automatic rifles and machine guns, the wearing and adjusting of gas masks, what to do in case of gas attack, and, in short, instructions regarding every possible emergency that could happen. The men realized quickly that what they learned at this period would be instrumental in saving their lives later, and for this reason they put forth every effort upon these instructions.

On the third day of May the first aerial battle was witnessed. Some German planes had been sent out

in an effort to find out how many troops were in this village, and the nature of their training and efficiency, and at the same time to drop a few bombs on them. However, the ever-watchful French observers detected their presence and French planes were summoned at once to meet the hostile "Albatros." The anti-aircraft guns thundered away, but were seemingly without effect for the Germans steadily neared the village. The men were in the fields drilling at the time. Orders were immediately given for all to stand perfectly still. Soon a volley of machine guns was heard in the air. Some French planes had arrived and were attempting to distract the attention of the Germans from the village where the men were training. There were eight planes in all, four German and four French. It was a most spectacular sight to see these men fighting in the air, shooting their machine guns through space, whirling this way and that, diving thousands of feet, and quickly darting upward again. But the German planes, though cleverly manoeuvred, were soon forced to turn their noses back to their own lines with the four Frenchmen hot after them. This created a thrill of excitement that was some days in subsiding. After that a signal for approaching hostile planes was sounded by anybody as soon as they saw what they considered an enemy. German planes were discerned by a black cross and also by the peculiar humming of the motor.

On the afternoon of the 8th of May the first mail-call from America was blown, and in an instant joy reigned supreme for it had been many days since the

men had read news from their loved ones. As soon as the mail was received it was fairly devoured by these news-hungry troops. Most of the letters were forwarded from Newport News. Cheques and money orders, which many of them contained, were waved aloft, adding to the jubilation, for as soon as one of them was cashed the wine rooms and shops filled to their capacity and the men remained there until they had bought everything conceivable. Prices jumped, but this did not diminish the ardor of the luxury-craving men.

The fourteenth of May the regiment had the honor of being personally reviewed by General John J. Pershing, commander of the American Expeditionary Forces. The event was a gala day as well as a historic one. From daylight until the time of his arrival the men and officers vied with one another to present a neat and soldierly appearance.

The unit commanders received orders to have their commands assembled at 2:30 P. M. for the review was expected at 3:00 P. M. The men were lined up in double column on the main street of the town, and made a line about a half mile long. At the appointed hour the command to "open ranks" was given, a fanfare of trumpets blew, and the band played "Hail to the Chief," while the general arrived with his staff in the army limousines. The officials exchanged salutations and then came the inspection and review. He was very careful and minute with the inspection, his eagle eye seemed to focus on everything at once, and so careful was he that the least imperfection was de-



GENERAL PERSHING INSPECTING 372ND INFANTRY AT
CONDE-EN-BARROIS. MAY, 1918

tected in a moment. He questioned each company commander closely, and now and then grasped a rifle and inspected the bore. The men stood like old and seasoned soldiers. Not a word nor a whisper nor a perceptible movement of any kind was noticed, and all made a very favorable impression on the great general.

His comment was that "these men are the making of a very able regiment."

By the eighteenth of May the regiment had made such progress that it was decided to make preparations for trench occupation in a quiet sector. A number of officers and men were therefore summoned to the trenches for a "training-under-fire" period of two weeks. While the men were receiving this training the remainder of the regiment continued their daily routine and waited for early instructions to move near the trenches. On the 24th day of May our first casualty occurred. A lieutenant was severely wounded while making observations.

CHAPTER III.

THE TRENCHES

SUB-SECTOR ARGONNE

ON the 27th of May orders were received that directed a movement to a place nearer the front line. A great many men of the regiment were already there as they had been sent on a tour of instruction some days previous, and there were consequently fewer men to handle. The next morning an endless chain of motor trucks rolled up to the outskirts of Conde-en-Barrois at five o'clock. The regiment was already formed and ready for further instructions. The men could see on a high hill toward the east seven hundred meters distant a long and white stretch of road over which they would soon be traveling, but just what lay on the other side of the hill was a matter of uncertainty. At six o'clock the movement began, each unit being "split up" into platoons, which were now very small on account of the large number of men absent. As each truck was loaded it sped off to a point several hundred yards distant and stopped. The others in turn would take their load and run up behind the truck that had preceded it, and this continued until the trucks were loaded and the train was pronounced ready to proceed. The signal to move was finally given after a seemingly endless delay. As the day

was clear the roads were very dusty. The trip was only of a few hours' duration and after passing through several large and small villages, the regiment reached the town of Les Senades, which was only eight kilometers from the front line trenches, and was within easy range of the German guns, had they chosen to fire into the town, but as nothing was to be gained from such a bombardment they refrained.

In spite of the nearness of this town to the front line there were civilian inhabitants there, mostly women, who planted their gardens and farms. Often a stray shell found its way into some of the gardens, and the effect was ruinous.

Shortly after the hour of noon the regiment reached this town, and quickly detrainning entered seclusions, which were the unused barns and stalls such as before referred to in the town of Conde-en-Barrois. As Les Senades was a great deal smaller than Conde-en-Barrois it was necessary to divide the regiment and place it in several smaller villages in the immediate vicinity. It was in this town that the Americans quietly celebrated the 30th of May, in honor of their dead comrades of other wars, whose graves were many miles away. Their Memorial Day was not forgotten. For the next few days men were sent back and forth from the front line trenches and the "poste du colonel," as it was now within walking distance. There were many orders to be carried back and forth, as there were a number of officers as well as men in the lines getting their first "under fire" instruction. Practically no drilling took place, and

many of the regular calls were omitted on account of the nearness to the front line. Each day the men became more prepared for the events which were soon to follow. A great deal of the equipment was salvaged here and left in the storehouses, which were the same houses that served for sleeping quarters prior to the departure of the regiment. The men were ordered to take no more than thirty pounds of equipment with them, as it was difficult to handle so much in the trenches. Trench sweaters, woolen helmets and all such articles were left behind in the barrack bags, and in many cases were never seen again, as these bags were salvaged and all the best material removed by those who were lucky enough to get a chance to delve into their contents.

On the fourth day of June it was announced that the regiment, now a part of the 157th or "Red Hand" division, was to occupy that part of the front line known as "Sub-Sector Argonne-West." By reason of the very mountainous and thickly wooded areas, it had been long before deemed necessary to divide this area and other similar areas into sub-sectors; the fact that it required more men to defend these particular sections, was in itself insignificant for the advantage gained by retaining these high points more than counterbalanced the surplus men and material utilized.

"From the 'observatoire Robeson,' the highest point of observation on the French side of the Argonne section could be seen many places of vantage, which of necessity were in use by the enemy as storehouses, munition dumps, etc. By means of the powerful

glasses that were used in these observatories, knowledge of the terrain, and the wonderful "Intelligence" system of the French any movement or change in the enemy positions could be immediately detected and was instantly flashed to headquarters. In a very short time instructions would be returned, usually by courier or messenger, for it was not regarded wise to send important messages over the wire unless they were in code. On both sides existed a method of tapping the wires. This was accomplished by means of a contrivance that picked up vibrations from the ground as a wireless takes them from the air. Accordingly the use of the telephone was diminished greatly, with the exception of code messages, and the intelligence systems of both the Germans and the Allies were so efficient that it was found necessary to change these codes frequently. In many sectors where telephone wires could not be installed, the wireless was used but codes were strictly adhered to. This wireless was known as a "field wireless," and was transported by a squad of men who specialized in the use of this instrument of communication. It could be set up ready to operate in an amazingly short time. It was necessary, however, to place these wireless crews in very secluded spots to escape observation. Instructions on these points and many others of less importance were imparted to the men of our regiment who had taken their positions in the lines before the main body of the regiment moved to the sector. After training the men along these lines, it was not long before the regiment could be left entirely upon its own

resources. To aid in the development of these resources French instructors were detailed from French general headquarters and their untiring efforts, coupled with the aptitude and curious interest of the scholars, naturally produced results which were well worth the praise they received. In the short space of a few weeks these men showed by their efficiency under fire that they were ready to tackle the task of communication and observation unaided save by means of liaison agents or "runners," who carried messages from one sector to another by means of relaying.

Shortly after midnight on the fourth of June began the march to the front line trenches by these black defenders of Democracy, whose only knowledge of warfare was what they had read in histories and other books. The spectacle presented by this column was a most grim one. As far as one could see was a long line of soldiers, half bent forward with the weight of their French packs and other luggage. Ration bags filled with hard-tack and canned meat dangled from either side, while their gas masks, canteens and grenade carriers, axes and shovels which formed the rest of their equipment, occupied the remaining space so that very little of the individual could be seen.

The men were arranged in detachments or platoons, and each group marched at a distance of two hundred feet from the one preceding it, since in marching along military roads, within range of fire, precautions were always taken with a view to protecting the lives of the men in case of observation and consequent bom-

bardment of the roads. With these generous intervals the danger from this source was greatly diminished. The night was extremely dark and therefore favorable for a relief. The roads were not bombarded that night, and the march was accomplished without any casualties. The French regiment, whom we were to relieve, had taken extra precautions by a most minute observation of the enemy territory, and it was probably for this reason that the German batteries did not open fire, for they were aware that they were being closely observed, and that the only way to maintain their obscurity was to remain silent.

Without an audible word of conversation the black Americans marched to their respective places and were installed in the place of the French, who, when the relief was accomplished, left in small detachments and by different routes. The French "poilus" seemed very glad to have the opportunity of being relieved by a colored American outfit, and they willingly remained one or two days to explain in detail trench communications and other intricacies. It was several hours before the relief was completed, but before dawn the last of the men had reached their stations, and when the sun rose in the morning, the German observers doubtless noted a very different aspect on the Allied side of the Sub-Sector Argonne West. The relief had been successfully accomplished, and now began the nerve-racking experience of trench life.

The two battalions that were chosen to occupy the front line found it very hard to grasp at first the intricacies of trench observation in spite of the previous

training and lectures, because all reliefs were made under cover of darkness. In many instances the liaison men lost their bearings in trying to find the dug-outs where each unit commander had a P. C. which were keys to the trench arrangement. The nights were dreadfully dark and it required doughboys of iron nerve to go and come over the sector assigned to this command.

There were many isolated posts in the sector known only to the headquarters staff of the regiment and the intelligence department, and only the liaison agents were entrusted with the secret openings that led in and out to strategic points. Countersigns, passwords, and all wartime precautionary methods for passing individuals within these sanctums of military defense were used altogether. These mystic words were changed daily in order to mitigate the chances of the enemy coming into the lines under pretext of a friendly party. Sentry duty was equally hazardous to the uninitiated, because of the momentary expectation of enemy bombardment, gas and aerial observation on the part of the enemy. A pigeon liaison was also inaugurated, by placing a number of carrier pigeons under the supervision of a sergeant, whose duty it was to keep these intelligent birds in readiness for immediate service. Each day three practice flights were made, and a careful tabulation of each flight recorded.

The terrain in the Argonne forest was naturally adapted to the trench method of warfare. The woods were so thick in many places that they were impene-

trable for the average Rambler, but the soldiers had made dugouts, munition dumps and all sorts of traps and strategic contrivances without observation since the foliage and the steep hills and mountains afforded a perfect camouflage. The two most important places were known as Confluent and Noveau Cottage. Either of these places were within a mile of the front line trenches. The two points formed an irregular wedge in the lines of the enemy, and consequently he could fire on us from three sides, but on account of the steep and high hills so numerous in this section it was of no avail to bombard either place.

Approaching Confluent which was the first "military settlement" one would pass along a heavily camouflaged road for several miles, and then the village of La Chalade appeared. A large church was all that remained of this village, in the rear of which dugouts had been constructed. The place was used as a first-aid station. As there was a great deal of traffic along this road it was heavily camouflaged, great screens being stretched across the road at a height sufficient to allow horses and wagons to pass under. Along the sides of the road were other screens which measured from twelve to twenty feet in height. These screens were made by driving poles deep into the ground and then placing supports on them. The camouflage screen, which was constructed by women behind the lines, was fastened to these poles. The screens usually consisted of coarse wire and all sorts of sticks, shrubbery and other material interwoven so closely that it was difficult to see through it even when one

stood close by. It was often found necessary to repair these screens, for whenever the Germans bombarded the roads they usually tore down sections of the camouflage. It was no unusual sight to see large pieces of this camouflage lying close to the road, and to all appearances one would think it was going to waste, but such was not the case.

About fifty feet apart were piles of gravel placed on the side of the road for use in case of bombardment, for the shells usually tore great holes in the roads which had to be repaired immediately in order that transportation should not be seriously hampered.

Railway transportation was, of course, impossible at this distance from the lines. To counterbalance this handicap tramways were built along the road, and in most cases these little cars were pulled by mules or horses. In secluded spots steam engines were used to pull these small and heavy cars. They were operated chiefly between the munition dumps and the artillery. Their chief function was carrying shells and powder to the batteries who were closer to the front lines. In addition to this, food and other supplies were often taken to the distributing points by means of these little trains, for at times the amount of material to be carried was so great that men had to work both day and night. As a rule, however, the transportation was usually accomplished between ten at night and three in the morning. The roads were kept in the very best of condition by the engineers, who specialized in work of this nature.

On either side of the road and from eight to ten

miles in the rear of the front line trenches barbed wire was stretched at intervals. This was usually zig-zagged because many times the enemy have been known to crowd into one of the wedges made by this zig-zag placement of the wire during a battle and before they could get out machine gun fire would wreak havoc among them. On the sides of the hills were machine-gun nests, which were well known to both the Germans and the Allies as places to be avoided, for a single nest, usually consisting of three or four machine-guns, has been known to control the whole valley and the roads for two or three miles. These, however, were only used to stem the onrush of the enemy in the event of retreat and were always placed at the most strategic positions. The placing of the barbed wire was done according to the rules of military strategy. One would seldom see barbed wire on the crest of a hill, but more often on the sides and sometimes it was concealed in underbrush.

By the time the eye has noticed all these points the observer finds himself passing through a demolished village and within sight of Confluent. This station was on the side of a mountain, very steep and thickly wooded. Away to the north, northeast, and the northwest were the German lines, while to the south was a deep ravine, well protected by machine gun nests. At the bottom of this ravine many springs and wells abounded, which furnished an abundant supply of excellent drinking water. The tramway was also laid on the bottom of this ravine and the bulk of the supplies came over its miniature railroad, as it was so

well protected that any other method of transportation was unnecessary.

At length the observer finds himself at the Post du colonel, at Confluent, which was the headquarters for the regiment that occupied this sector. It had long been occupied, and the great drives of preceding years had made but very little impression in the lines here. The dugouts had wooden floors, and one or two of them were furnished with chairs, beds, tables, and so on, and at night were lighted by electricity, care being taken to screen the windows so that no light could show outside. These were the official dugouts, but those used by the enlisted men connected with the regimental headquarters staff were altogether differently constructed. Here there were no floors and no walls. Each dugout was merely a hole dug in the ground the interior of which consisted of a number of cots constructed of poles and wire and arranged in tiers, a rude fireplace and in some instances a roughly constructed table. The exterior was covered with branches, bushes, and other material and so cleverly was this done that one was scarcely aware that he was standing near the abode of fighting men. The entrance was constructed to resemble the other sections, so that unless one knew exactly where the entrance was it would be difficult to locate it from a distance. The kitchen was near the bottom of the ravine situated in a large dugout. Each company had also its own kitchen, and they were placed farther up the road in the rear of a steep hill, in order that they might be as near the lines as possible. To avoid con-

gestion and undue traffic one man usually procured the food for his squad in a squad pail which held enough food for eight men. Thus the travel was reduced to one eighth of what it would have been had each man come down for his food. It also left more men in the defensive positions in the event of a sudden attack. The rolling kitchens were huge cauldrons on four wheels. Under these large pots were fireplaces which made it possible to cook a meal for hundreds of men while a march was in progress.

The observer has now reached the first sign of real warfare. Although he is not aware of it he has passed many cannon of huge calibre, but now his attention is riveted on many of the smaller type known as seventy-fives and one-hundred-fives. These are more or less movable and for that reason the obscuring of them is not so necessary as it is with the larger ones such as one-hundred-fifties and "two-hundred-tens." In addition to these cannon were many boyaux and trenches, which formed a concealed roadway to these front line trenches. At certain intervals sentries were placed in the boyaux or communication trenches as they sometimes are termed. In order to pass one must give the countersign which was usually the name of some famous man coupled with the name of a city in France. At widely separated intervals one would see a tall ladder running up into a tree and very heavily camouflaged. This ladder led to the observatories which were always placed in the highest point of the tree, and if the foliage was not thick enough at this height to hide the observatory it would

be camouflaged. Telephone wires ran down the sides of these trees and back through the boyaux to the post du colonel in order that any unusual movement could be at once reported to the commanding officer. In the distance could be heard the popping of rifles and the machine guns, which served as a reminder that the front lines were only a short distance away.

Advancing very carefully, the observer now finds himself in a boyau about eight or ten feet deep and well protected on the sides to prevent its caving in. This method of travel must now be adhered to, for it is no longer safe to be in sight of the enemy snipers, as they are concealed within a half mile and every movable object is made the object of their accurate fire. Shell holes are more frequently encountered now, and in some places they join one another. The trees have long since been stripped of their bark and foliage and the bushes and shrubbery lie on the ground dead and withered, either dug up by the artillery or cut to pieces by shrapnel and machine-gun fire. The view is a most dismal one. Not even a bird can be seen to represent animal life, yet the observer is aware that hundreds and perhaps thousands of men are within rifle shot. After traveling a few feet farther the inhabited sections of the trenches present themselves. These are the lines of resistance and strong points which are utilized mostly in defensive work. Caution and absolute quietness in all movements are the first noticeable changes for within a few yards of this point may be German sentries at their listening posts. These posts are used on both sides and are placed well

in advance of the front lines, sometimes on a parallel with the enemy front lines, in order that the slightest movement or unusual sound can be at once detected and reported.

As a rule the trenches were very damp and in low places they were partly filled with water, which made it very dangerous and uncomfortable to the inmates. Therefore it was no uncommon sight to see an elevated board walk made of branches and placed in the bottom of these holes. In the well organized territory the sides of the trenches were interwoven with branches and indeed made very presentable. At the bottom of the trenches and sometimes in the side dugouts were made for use as sleeping quarters and store-rooms. These ran deep into the ground and were, of course, damp and dark with candles as the only means of illumination. On either side of the passage crude beds were arranged running back the entire length. Sometimes these passages were connected with each other, thus making it possible to enter at one section of the trench and leave in another locality. In other dugouts which were used as munition stores the observer would note all sorts of rockets, grenades, machine-gun belts loaded with the 29.29 calibre bullets arranged in systematic fashion and marked so that in case of emergency one could immediately lay hand on the article called for. A very careful watch was always kept on these stores, and they were never allowed to get low.

A very careful look-out was also maintained for very often enemy aeroplanes laden with bombs circled

over the lines and were apt to sweep down and drop them or discharge a few volleys of machine-gun fire. There were planes that had various missions and the largest of these were the bombers and the observation planes. These observation planes often directed the fire of the artillery, in addition to their other functions. Away in the distance were the observation balloons which were known by the French as "Drachens." These were stationary and could only be moved by means of a car which traveled back and forth on rails as the observer in the balloon directed. The chief function of these balloons was to keep a careful watch on all roads and paths leading up to the lines of communication. If anything unusual was detected aeroplanes equipped with a camera were sent out, and in a few minutes several photographs were taken of this particular movement. These photographs were studied and compared with others taken previously and would plainly show the location of a new trench or any other disturbance of the terrain, in spite of the camouflage that was usually thrown over any new "digging." It can readily be seen that much stress was placed upon observations, and those connected with the intelligence system on either side could almost unerringly tell what the enemy was about to do by taking notice of the character of their works and movements.

The two battalions that took their place in the front line had unconsciously passed all this scenery, as the night was so dark that nothing but the pale white of the road could be dimly seen in front of them. The

battalion in reserve was placed in Camp Kopp, which lay between the village of La Chalade and Confluent. The plan of defense had been given the colonel of our regiment some time before our entry into the sector and he discussed it with the officers of his command, in order that all arrangements might be complete before entering the sector. Thus when the time came for each company to locate itself quickly in the ilot designated for it only a few hours was necessary as every detail and every possible question or doubt had been answered in this plan of defense. The French guides are also responsible for the efficiency exhibited in locating the dugouts, for they worked rapidly, running hither and thither, directing officers and men who were going in the wrong direction, until the defensive system was well instilled into the minds of both officers and men. When morning came the regiment appeared ready for defensive work, but at this juncture it is very infrequent that a combat or raid ensues. Just as soon as it is discovered on either side that a new force has been placed opposite a period of intense observation usually results. The purpose is to discover the nature, number, and, if possible, to judge by their movements whether or not they are well-seasoned troops. During the first two weeks of this trench life the enemy sent his planes over frequently and used all available means of observation in order to get the desired information. Very often there was a harrassing fire, which was usually directed upon roads and paths by the artillery. This sort of fire was so named on account of the incessant can-

nonading of the objective at the rate of one shell every four or five minutes, which, of course, made transportation at this point impossible. Thus it was difficult at first to get supplies to the men. Several casualties were counted from this fire both in horses and men. Bursts of machine-gun fire and the popping of rifles went on intermittently. The use of camouflage and the absolute necessity of obscurity were constantly drilled into the minds of the men.

On the 19th of June the first disturbance occurred when a party of Germans attempted to raid our position, known as Ilot Number 30, in an attempt to get a few prisoners and more information as to the occupation of the trenches on our side. They were repulsed by means of grenades. Several of their men were injured, while one was slightly injured on our side. A brief account was obtained by our intelligence department and included in the report of the next morning. Reports were made daily and forwarded to the next higher command where they were condensed and transferred to the next higher. This was repeated until it reached general headquarters, where a weekly bulletin was printed relating the happenings all along the line. It will be noted that the report (an original copy of one is on the opposite page) including all movements and projects on both sides, and in extremely quiet sectors, such as the one we were now in, an exact count was kept of the number of shells fired each day, their origin, and their objective. In this way could be gleaned from the character of the enemy's fire just what his purpose was. The mere

character of fire has been known to change the occupation and defensive positions entirely.

The Boche group referred to was a raiding party of about twenty men whose mission it was to surprise the Allied guards and before the alarm could be given to take a few prisoners, but on account of the alertness of our men their presence was soon detected and they were quickly driven off.

The ilot which is usually the objective of a raiding party was merely a trench situated on or near a knoll, and a body of men was always kept in these ilots as they controlled the terrain between the trench and the space known as "No Man's Land." Thus it was not necessary to keep the trenches occupied and indeed the space between the ilots was practically deserted save for the walking of sentries back and forth both day and night. These ilots were usually known as "strong points." This particular raid was known as a "silent raid," because it was not preceded by artillery. A raid with artillery preparation is usually of greater magnitude as many men are employed and prior to their advance a series of shells is sent over with a view to destroying the barbed wire entanglements and driving all the sentries and guards under cover. This is known as a "barrage," which is directed in various manners according to the character and purpose of the attack. A raid of this nature, although it entails heavier losses and more risks, is more often successful.

After driving off the Boche raiders, who were doubtless well-seasoned soldiers, a feeling of confidence was

created among the men, for more than one had painted mental pictures, not knowing the true conditions of this life in the trenches, and always overestimating the character and ability of the enemy. It was therefore gratifying to know that these inexperienced soldiers proved to be more than the equal of the forces opposing them. It was unnecessary after this event even to admonish the men of the vital importance of watchfulness and obscurity and the remaining week spent in this sector was without incident, save for a few casualties caused by shrapnel and bursting shells, which were daily thrown over both by the French and German batteries.

The term of occupation was not more than thirty days unless circumstances made it impossible to effect a relief. As the men had spent nearly four weeks in this sector the rumor of relief was soon spread throughout the regiment, and it was not suprising when on the 26th day of June a courier brought orders from division headquarters which indicated that on the 27th of June we were to be relieved by a French regiment. There were no preparations to be made, for on the battle-line everything is kept in readiness for a hasty move, and finally on the 27th at about ten o'clock P. M. the advance section of the French regiment arrived, and the reserve battalion of our regiment commenced its march to the new sector, which was about twelve miles distant by way of the roads. In the front lines the movements were slower, as the men left in small groups when they were relieved by a group of French soldiers. There were always a num-

ber of instructions to be given in order that the new sector might become familiar to the lately arrived soldiers as soon as possible.

At one o'clock that night the regiment was well under way, for the new sector was to be taken over that same night. The road was well camouflaged and well protected, but the majority of the men took an unused road through the woods which cut off nearly half the distance.

There was no commotion of any kind encountered during the march, although the enemy positions were not but a few kilometers away. The wagons were well in the rear and went by the longer route as the roads were much better.

After passing through the villages of La Cleon, Neufour and Aubreyville, the reserve battalion and most of the rolling stock was quartered in and about the ruins of Neuville. The battalions who were to occupy the front lines had arrived long before the reserve battalions and were now installed in their positions.

CHAPTER IV.

THE MEUSE SECTION

SUB-SECTOR VAUQUOIS

ON the morning of June 28th after a refreshing slumber and a much needed rest the eyes of all fell on the Vauquois Sector, so called because of its proximity to the village of Vauquois, which, before being reduced to ashes by the withering artillery fire, was one of the most enterprising and progressive villages in that section. The surroundings were of a completely different nature from those of the Argonne. Here everything was in a state of devastation, for, owing to the lack of natural protection, a great deal more could be observed and consequently more bombardment and aeroplane bombing resulted. The road beds had many times been patched up, and there were many "bad places" in them now. The fields were dotted with shell holes and the few trees and bushes were almost entirely stripped of their foliage and branches by the poisonous gases, shrapnel, and other destructives thrown over by the German artillery. Camouflage was used very extensively in this sector, and even then the movements behind this man-made foliage were easily detected by means of the aeroplanes and observation balloons, which could ascend

to an altitude sufficient to allow the observer a plain view of the road on a clear day. Thus it was that the fire of the artillery was so well directed.

In this sector the Germans had the best organized position, and the terrain on their side was covered here and there with patches of woods, which were sufficient to prevent their being observed by the French and American balloons. The front lines were a goodly distance apart, the Franco-American lines being on the southern slope of a hill and about a mile away the German lines could be seen on the southern slopes of a higher and better protected hill. The ground between ("No Man's Land") was a ravine, where traveling was practically impossible for either the Allied troops or the Huns. Every path and spot that suggested traffic was made the target of machine-gun fire, and in consequence thereof there was very little patrolling and no attempts to make a raid on either side. One of the most noticeable features of this sector was the marked increase of the Hun artillery. This artillery, though not causing any serious damage kept the traveling at a minimum, and there were many times when traveling was impossible, for should the artillery commence while one was out on the road, the chances of escaping were very small because a good distance had to be traveled on open ground before a place of refuge could be reached. The dug-outs in the rear of the front line were merely holes in the ground located on a very sandy slope, on which there were no trees or bushes. Often this slope was subjected to a severe bombardment.

The supply company was quartered ten miles in the rear of these dugouts in a patch of woods on the outskirts of the village of Rerécourt, a small inhabited village. This was the nearest spot that was secluded by nature, and although the supplies were longer in getting to the lines it was more expedient to have them stored where they would not be under the constant observation of the enemy. All the records and papers with the exception of maps, and other documents of absolute necessity in the front were kept at this station.

On the fourth of July an incident occurred, which, though unwarlike will long rest in the memory of those who witnessed it. An American aeroplane manned by American aviators circled over the sector several times and then swooped down to within fifty feet of the ground, and dropped a beautiful bouquet near the Poste du Colonel. A mad scramble ensued and soon there was a crowd that had gathered more for curiosity than anything else. The bouquet consisted chiefly of "American Beauty" roses. A brief note expressing the best wishes of Americans on the neighboring sectors was attached and fastened by a red, white and blue ribbon. Many of the boys took a petal or leaf to preserve as a souvenir of this unusual event, for out on this desolate waste such things as "American Beauty" roses were unthought of.

On the sector west of "Forimont" there had been considerable activity and it resulted in the Huns retreating. On the fifth of July orders were sent throughout the regiment that some action was mo-

mentarily expected and every man was to be on the alert should the orders to retreat or move forward be given. As the enemy was slowly retreating on the west of us it was generally thought that he might make a counter attack on our sector and farther along in an easterly direction. The conditions existing in our lines was demoralizing, and had the Germans launched an attack they would in all probability have broken through for our defenses were very meagre, as the entanglements were delapidated and the emplacements were miserably torn down by the constant shelling by the Germans. All the preceding week people had been moving back from the towns that they inhabited, for the military authorities had warned them of the expected drive, and there were many sad scenes as these poor unfortunate civilians gathered up up a few of the necessities of life and left their homes, their farms and gardens, to go back to the zone of safety.

At this juncture the fire of discontent and dissatisfaction was fanned to an alarming proportion. Rumors were heard that the colored officers were not making good; intrigues on the part of the white staff officers were being daily uncovered. One of the regiment's company commanders was threatened with court-martial if he allowed his men to resent any authorized order given in the name of the regimental or battalion commander by an under staff officer, and this travelled throughout the regiment creating a poor condition, for a continued regime of *esprit de corps* and morale. Three colored line officers were sum-

marily relieved from duty and placed under technical arrest in quarters for insubordination, because of the machinations on the part of their major with the help of the staff officers, to create a propaganda which was rife among all colored units in France. The French liaison officers could not understand why Americans should treat one another so harshly and cruelly when it was momentarily expected that the division would be plunged into battle. The commanding general of the division recommended that the regiment be withdrawn from the sector until the spirit of the men and officers was renewed, as it would be a very foolish thing to enter battle with every colored line officer and man under a cloud, and the commander of the regiment with his staff at variance with the scheme of defense. It was two weeks later that the regiment was removed from the sector.

In the meantime matters were somewhat relieved by the changing of commanders. Colonel Herschel Tupes of the regular army assumed the command of the regiment, and the men and officers, both white and black, made their minds easy for the time, and waited impatiently and curiously to see what steps would be taken to remedy the conditions now existing in the regiment.

One of the first steps taken by the new commander was to make a complete analysis of the regiment. As a result there were many "conferences" both between the white and colored officers and the colonel with a view to improving the morale, and getting the best service out of both men and officers. Many changes were



OFFICERS OF THE 372ND INFANTRY AND FRENCH ATTACHÉS

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made in the personnel of the regiment both among the enlisted and commissioned, and under the new leadership matters seemed to take a new lease of life, and a decided improvement was noticed in the short space of a few weeks.

About a week after the aeroplane incident rumors were spread that there was soon to be some general activity all along the lines. These rumors were soon verified, and it was known that the Allies were preparing to make a tremendous thrust between the tenth and fifteenth of July. In some way the news had filtered throughout the front lines that the Germans were preparing to launch another offensive, and the Allies were to answer them with a series of offensives. In order to prepare this section for offensive activity a great deal of work had to be done, and under new leaders the men worked like demons and shortly had a complete new line of resistance set up some distance to the rear of the old line. The Vanquois sector was now considered "fit for action." Mines were laid, in addition to those already laid, munitions were brought up and all the dumps were filled to their capacity. Machine-gun nests were organized and all strategic points were re-inforced. During all these preparations a harassing fire was thrown over on the German lines in order that their attention might be diverted from observation and devoted to their own safety. All bridges, railways, and roads were dynamited and connected by an electric arrangement, so that the mere pressure of a few buttons would practically demolish the entire locality. A large hill northeast of our po-

sitions was blown up, and this blocked several important roads. Not a stone remained unturned in the preparations for this great drive. On the thirteenth of July the hostilities were opened. Some prisoners had been made by the French infantry, and they informed the commanders that on the night of the thirteenth the Germans expected to make a drive, and gave other information which was carefully noted, as there were non-commissioned officers and one or two commissioned officers among the Hun prisoners. It was discovered that the Germans had prepared to begin their preliminary artillery fire at about midnight on the thirteenth of July.

A few minutes after eleven o'clock on the thirteenth the sky was suddenly lit up with rockets, signals, bursting shells, bombs, and all manner of explosives; the earth shuddered from the impact caused by the bursting of shells, for the offensive had commenced, but it was the French and American artillery that started it. The Germans answered, but they were so surprised that a weak response was the best they could offer. From eleven o'clock until nearly nine the next night the Allied artillery poured iron and gas over into the German lines with appalling results. When the infantry went over the top shortly after the cessation of the artillery fire they were astounded at the sight that lay before them. Horses, men, supplies, demolished guns, wagons, and all sorts of equipment had been left by the German soldiers, when their retreat began.

While this action was going on in the sectors west

of us, our men eagerly and anxiously waited to see what would result in our sector. We were prepared for a counter offensive on the part of the Germans, but such never came.

On the sixteenth of July the orders for relief came and never were orders more welcomed, for the boys had undergone mental, moral and physical strains while in this sector, and a rest was eagerly looked forward to. The following day we were replaced by a well-seasoned regiment of French soldiers, and most of the regiment proceeded the village of Lo Cheres, which was a small uninhabited village, but was practically unmolested on account of its obscurity. It was surrounded by hills and woods on three sides, and was located in the bottom of a ravine, which afforded the best natural protection.

On the night of the eighteenth the regiment moved into the village of Sivry-la-Perche, which was within eight miles of Verdun, and here they were allowed to relax. Many of the units arrived before midnight, as the distance was about five miles. Some, however, were less fortunate. There were no guides, and the roads were difficult to follow on account of crossings and forks. The smallest section, which was the regimental headquarters section, strayed off the right road twice. While trying to locate their whereabouts a strong wind blew up from the west and northwest. It had been very dry for several days, and as there was much loose sand in the vicinity the inevitable result was a sandstorm, the first that these men had ever witnessed. Trees were torn up by the roots, bushes and every

mobile thing were whirled through the air in this gale, which raged at a rate of nearly a hundred miles an hour. The sharp sand cut the mules and the canvas covered wagons, and the men would have fared the same way had they not found refuge on the sheltered side of the vehicles. Many times the heavily loaded wagons looked as if they would blow over. Some of the men put on their gas masks, and lay flat on the ground, for the storm was so fierce and the air so thick one could scarcely stand or breathe. In a half hour all was over and the headquarters group proceeded along the same unfamiliar road that led they knew not where. Finally they ran into a French artillery camp, and the Frenchmen were very obliging. They directed us to the right road and gave us a map that we might consult it in case of further doubts. Low rumblings of thunder and sharp flashes of lightning were heard and seen, and black clouds hung menacingly over us making the night so dark that one could not see his hand before his face. Suddenly a downpour of rain burst from the clouds and before we knew it were in the midst of one of the most terrific electrical storms that we had encountered. By means of the incessant flashing of the lightning we had perceived a barn on the slope of a hill about a half mile distant from the road. We were nearly an hour in reaching it. When we did we found that there were several other structures, and these contained rude cots and furniture, but they were occupied. The occupants took us to the barn and told us that we might spend the remainder of the night there.

At daylight on the morning of the 19th, we continued our much-delayed journey and about seven o'clock we arrived in the village of Sivry-la-Perche, muddy, tired and bedraggled. We learned afterward that there was a very much shorter route.

The village of Sivry-la-Perche showed evidences of having been a commercial or market-town, for on its outskirts were many orchards, farms and gardens, and there were several important roads leading to and from this place. There were no inhabitants in the town at this time, which was now a military post. The roads and houses were blocked and numbered so that the exact accommodations could be ascertained by a glance at the plan. It was surrounded by a very steep slope, on the crest of which was a well-camouflaged road in constant use. Many shells were heard exploding on the roads, and some quite close to the village, but not near enough to cause any uneasiness.

A complete period of relaxation was enjoyed by the men while in this village. The band played each afternoon, and there were games and other amusements to ease the minds of these nerve-racked men. As this was the first chance the new colonel had to talk with the men, he gave several lectures on military discipline, emphasizing what he expected of the regiment, based upon what he had seen during his short term of duty among these men.

For a whole week very little work of any kind was done within the confines of the regiment, but finally it was ordered that we make preparations for another move. On the 26th of July, the regiment proceeded

to the villages of Vigneville, Montzeville, and Esnes, which were on the western side of the Verdun sector and was known as sub-sector 304, so called on account of Hill 304, which was the most formidable defense in this vicinity. A great deal of the war's history was created in this section, as it was here that the Germans had executed their drive in an effort to take Verdun, but had been repulsed by the French with enormous casualties. The men were anxious to see this famous field of battle, but were loath to leave the comfortable quarters at Sivry-la-Perche. Shortly after dark the march was in progress. A part of the road lay in open territory with no camouflage, and there were no guides save the military road maps. Consequently the leading units were trusted with the roads to be taken. Only once during the march did they stray from the road, and about midnight arrived at the three villages designated by the orders. The main body of the regiment settled in Vigneville, while the headquarters company and a part of a battalion remained in Montzeville, and a small group went over to Esnes, the village nearest to the German lines.

CHAPTER V.

VERDUN

"MORT HOMME" AND HILL 304

NOT a single building was left standing in either town, and the few walls seen here and there were tottering, ready to collapse at the least disturbance. Under these were situated the dugouts which were at first chosen for regimental headquarters, but were discarded as some French "poilus" had informed an officer that the poste du colonel was on the hill just north of Montzeville, which was known as Hill 310. So, without unloading, the wagons continued on a curved and hilly road until they had traveled nearly a mile. Some heavy artillery was passed on the way, but when questioned these men seemed to know very little about this sector, and no information was gained. The wagons continued until they came to a slope so steep that passage was impossible. Something had to be done soon, for daylight was not many hours away and it was known that we were within easy reach of the enemy's artillery and in an unprotected spot. Accordingly several groups of men went out in various directions in order to locate what they considered the regimental P. C. or the poste du colonel. There were many dugouts in all directions which looked suitable, but it was afterward learned that it would have meant destruction for the men to

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occupy those dugouts. Finally the colonel and a French interpreter arrived and informed us that the regimental P. C. was to be on the western slope of Hill 310, which was the opposite slope, and the distance was nearly a half mile. There was no road and the only means of passage was a narrow path winding in and out among the irregularities of the terrain. The wagons were unloaded quickly and sent back to Montzeville, where a shelter for them and the mules was found with the aid of the French interpreter, who seemed to be very familiar with the section.

The heavy boxes and other baggage had to be carried from here around the hill by the men who were already tired, as it was now about three o'clock in the morning. Daylight was approaching and with it would come a shower of shrapnel and hot lead from the German batteries. This fact was turned over many times in the minds of the men, and soon the baggage and boxes were transferred to their new location.

This was one of the unoccupied sectors, and from all indications it had not been occupied for some time. Many of the dugouts had to be repaired and cleaned out before they could be occupied. Others were in such condition that no improvements could be made. They had caved in or were half full of water, a nauseating odor emanating from their depths. Accommodations were finally located for the men who were few in number, as the majority of the regiment had been quartered in the villages of Vigneville and Montzeville. It was deemed unwise to lead 2,000 men into

an unknown and unoccupied sector without first making observations.

The following morning details were arranged and these men were sent out to reconnoiter and thoroughly investigate the position. There were many boyaux and shell holes in this district as well as a number of hills and mountains, and it was not difficult to keep out of the sight of the enemy. Late that afternoon the various groups of men arrived at the poste du colonel with information that was quickly condensed and soon orders were written and a plan of the territory hastily made and distributed among the unit commanders. The reserve battalion was to occupy the village of Esnes, about one and one half miles north of Montzeville. The two battalions of occupation were to occupy the trenches and boyaux on the northern slope of Hill 304 and to take such positions as would enable them to control the ravine between Hill 304 and the adjoining rises. This arrangement was only temporary, for shortly afterwards the positions were moved back. On the night of the 27th the occupations was accomplished without mishap.

As this sector had not been occupied for some time the first steps taken were with a view to make it habitable. Standing on Hill 310 one could look down into the town of Verdun, which is the important railway junction in this center and whose immediate environs command the country for miles. To the south could be seen the village of Montzeville and westward was a thick wood, where a number of munitions and supplies were stored. Camp Normandy, one of the rest camps,

was also situated in these woods, which were similar to those in the Argonne Forest, and afforded excellent protection. In the north the ruins of Esnes were located and still further north the front lines.

The occupation on both sides was very sparse as there was little danger of any hard fighting in this section at this time, because there were no objectives. Verdun had long since passed as a military objective, and save for the artillery there were practically no indications of hostilities. The ground had been literally ploughed up and perforated with shell holes, large and small, some overgrown with weeds, others full of filth and waste. The position was in such poor condition that it was decided to make a new sector, discarding as many of the old dugouts and trenches as could conveniently be done. The work was begun immediately and it will long be remembered, for it was one of the most unpleasant and ghastly propositions ever encountered by the men of the regiment. In digging new trenches all sorts of relics of the previous fighting were uncovered, skulls, bones, and putrid clothing, rusted and rotting equipment of all kinds. The odor became so offensive and dangerous that medical attention was called to it and a disinfectant was constantly employed to keep down disease and other infection. These terrible signs of fighting were placed in unused trenches and covered up as quickly as possible. Still the digging went on and on, and in the short space of two weeks the entire front lines were changed. The plan of occupation was also altered so that most of the men were held in the re-

serve positions, where one could move more freely, and in this way the nervous tension was kept at a minimum. The German front lines were in a valley or field just south of the village of Bethincourt. This village was in the German territory and was not occupied during the day. About dusk each evening men would move into it, and from here their patrols of liaison and reconnaissance were directed. There was considerable distance between the German and Allied lines in this section, and thus patrolling was the most important function of the section. Northwest of this village were the heights of Montfaucon, the highest and best equipped point of observation on either side. This was and had been for a considerable time occupied by the Germans. There were many small patches of woods on either side, in which was concealed the artillery. A small stream ran through a part of the village of Bethincourt and wound in and out among the hills and mountains until it reached the Meuse River. On this account trench life was disagreeable for the ground was very damp and soggy.

The land occupied by the Germans during the day was the heights north of Bethincourt, and at night their patrols would ford the stream and venture quite close to our lines, but no results were obtained as the mission of our regiment was, for the time being, to make a suitable position in the rear of these lines. Much of the work was accomplished at night as was the custom on the line. In the rear of our lines the work of making Hill 310 habitable was progressing rapidly. Camouflage was hastily put up, dugouts

were made, beds were taken from the unused places and put in the dugouts. A mess hall designated as the officers' mess was erected opposite the poste du colonel. Telephone wires were put up, a tramway was built, and many changes began to show on the exterior. For two weeks no guns were heard on either side. During these two weeks a number of aeroplanes had been sent over by the Huns to make some photographs, but they were soon detected, and before they could get near enough to gain any vital information they were scared away by the fire of our anti-aircraft guns.

On August first one of the most thrilling aerial battles in our experience occurred. Our observation balloons were in the air watching the "doings" in the German territory, while those on the German side were noting the progress of our work. It was a cloudy day and very favorable for aerial manoeuvring. There was a French observation balloon in the air, and soon afterward two more were sent up and a plane was sent to circle over the German lines, for something unusual was in progress in the German territory. This plane could venture quite close without fear of being shot down, as the German anti-aircraft gunners in this particular section were very inaccurate in aim, their shots falling far short of the mark. The Germans were evidently aware of this particular observation, for suddenly a black object was seen to swoop down from the clouds and discharge a fusilade of machine-gun bullets at one of the balloons bringing it down in flames. The occupant jumped out in his

parachute and was descending slowly to earth, when the same Hun avion dashed close by him and discharged another series of shots, but he got to earth with only a slight wound. The Hun avion then dashed quickly upward and was soon lost in the clouds overhead. It all happened in less than sixty seconds. The French plane was between the lines making observations and was incidentally between the German plane and the German lines. The German plane, which was concealed in the clouds, shut off his motor and silently swooped down on the French avion, and before the latter was aware of it had discharged several bursts of fire at the plane, then started manoeuvring such as had never been heard of in the air. The Frenchman and the German circled, dived, spun, and performed all sorts of aerial gymnastics for about ten minutes. Machine-guns were popping in both planes. Those who witnessed it broke into a cheer when one of the planes suddenly dived nose forward to the ground enveloped in flames, for it looked as if the Frenchman was victorious. But such was not the case and the cheers soon ceased when it was found that the German "Albatross" was still in the air and headed toward the German lines at top speed. Our anti-aircraft guns fired at him as rapidly as they could load, but he vanished among the clouds in a very short time and sped safely back to German headquarters, where he was doubtlessly heralded as the hero of the day. Battles occurred at frequent intervals after this, but they were mostly over the French lines, as the Germans were the aggressors.

In spite of the hatred that prevailed toward the German soldiers, the sympathy of all was appealed to one day when a plane was brought down in flames by the French anti-aircraft guns. The German avion was killed, and on his breast he wore a locket which contained a prayer and a picture of his mother and sweetheart. He was apparently about twenty-one years of age. Those who saw this were for the moment filled with remorse and a bitter hatred of fighting, even the Germans. However, the hostile feeling soon returned.

The aggressiveness of the French avions was of a different nature. At dusk on certain evenings one would observe from ten to twenty large bombing planes flying from our side toward the German lines. They were loaded with all sorts of explosives, and sometimes were gone for the entire night. Their objectives were railway centers, munition and supply-depots and artillery dumps. In this manner many tons of explosives were dropped, usually with telling effect, for great fires were often observed and in other places loud noises were heard as of exploding powder and shells. Thionville was one of the most frequented places. This was a large military and railway center, and was nearly seventy-five miles in the rear of the lines. During the first two weeks of our occupation practically all the activity was in the air. A large number of guns was brought up by the French for it was expected that there would be considerable disturbance as a result of this aerial manoeuvring. On the eighth of August the town of Montzeville and

the southern slopes of Hill 310 were given a severe shelling, but without any one being killed. The wires were torn up and the tramway completely demolished. The kitchen was several hundred feet away and in going to and from there a path had been made. A number of shells landed on this path and tore it up so that a new route had to be made, but this time no path was made. The shell holes made by the fire were immediately covered with bushes and brushes, for early the next morning the German observation balloons were in the air to observe what havoc they had wrought. Their aim had been most accurate, and it was for this reason that all was hastily camouflaged, that they might not know it. The telephone wires and tramway were immediately repaired by the men who specialized in this particular line of work and were at this time very efficient.

The next day the French answered with a fire known as "fire of reprisal." Just what damage was done could not be ascertained, for the German batteries were not all located as yet, and the objectives were somewhat indefinite. All the territory between the front lines and Montzeville was now raked daily by the German artillery, and daily the French answered them, sometimes giving them more and sometimes less. Each day the artillery on both sides became more and more accurate. Some casualties were counted among our men as a result of this, several being severely wounded.

One dark night some movement of wagons and other trucking was heard in the German lines at one of the

Franco-American listening posts. Word was immediately flashed back to the artillery and a "fire of concentration" was directed on the spot indicated by the sentinel at the listening post. Several loud shouts were heard when the fire first commenced and the rumbling of wheels, but in a short time it died down and all was quiet. The French 75s had taken deadly effect.

Toward the latter part of August a number of large guns were brought close behind the lines, and stationed near the regimental P. C. at the bottom of Hill 310. Some unusual Hun preparations had been noted considerably in the rear of the front lines, and the only way to reach them was to place the large calibre guns close to the lines as their range of fire was much greater than the range of the smaller guns. At ten o'clock that night a mighty barrage was thrown over into the German territory. The ground shook with the impact and many sections and walls of the newly constructed dugouts were caved in. The men had orders to remain in their dugouts during the cannonading for the concussion was terrific. When it was nearly finished a few of the more daring men went up to the crest of Hill 310 and were soon followed by others, where they beheld a wonderful sight about twelve miles away. There was a semicircle of smoke, fire and flashes of light, which at times were so bright that one would have thought day was breaking. Occasionally a great wall of fire and smoke was seen to dart upward, which was a sure sign that an ammunition dump had been struck and exploded. The fire

lasted for nearly three hours and was so effective that it was three days before the Germans answered and the character and volume of their "reprisal" was much weaker, although more accurate.

A few days later, however, we were surprised with a terrific cannonading. The hills and valleys and roads were practically torn up. A number of gas shells were thrown over, but with no effect, for the gas instructions were daily brought to the attention of the men. The gas feared mostly was "Yperite" or "mustard" gas, which would produce instant death, and wherever it was employed a most careful washing of everything was necessitated for the gas was effective for eight days. Each dugout was furnished with a gas curtain made of a heavy material and sprinkled with a preparation kept in each dugout, which made it impenetrable. This Yperite gas was used both by the French and Germans. Other gases were also employed, but they were not so deadly.

After this terrible bombardment it was decided to abandon most of the small dugouts and use the large saps as places of refuge. The German artillery was becoming so effective that several dugouts were caved in and the kitchen of the sergeant's mess was twice demolished, and several men were injured, for they could throw these shells just where they wanted to. Many did not move into the "sap," but preferred to risk it in the smaller dugouts, which were not so deep in the ground and therefore less damp and cold.

This "sap" was nothing more than a huge dugout some forty or fifty feet under ground and probably

three hundred feet in length. The work of excavating had been carried on since our occupation of this sector, and there were ample accommodations for the entire personnel of Hill 310 and the village of Montzeville. Although it was very damp, dark, and cold in the depths of this huge cavern, it provided a safe sleeping locality for those who did not care to trust the smaller and less protected dugouts. Three long flights of stairs led down to the bottom of the cave and were furnished with several gas curtains in order that no gas might get down into the depths. The gas is considerably heavier than air and consequently lurked in low damp places. There were no trees on this hill nor any of the neighboring hills, and whenever gas was thrown over it quickly sought its level in the valleys and ravines, where it was consumed by the oxygen and other anti-gas properties of the air. It was also found necessary to change the reserve positions from Esnes to a position farther back on account of the increasing and incessant artillery fire of the Huns. Camp Normandy was selected as the reserve camp since it provided protection from the artillery and also contained several fields where drilling and other manoeuvres could be held without fear of detection. There had evidently been some severe fighting here for the trees were well scarred and the roads and woods were all mined. Barbed wire was seen all ready to stretch across the road, if necessary, in order that the advance of the enemy might be checked. It was no unusual sight to see unexploded grenades and shells lying on the ground, which made

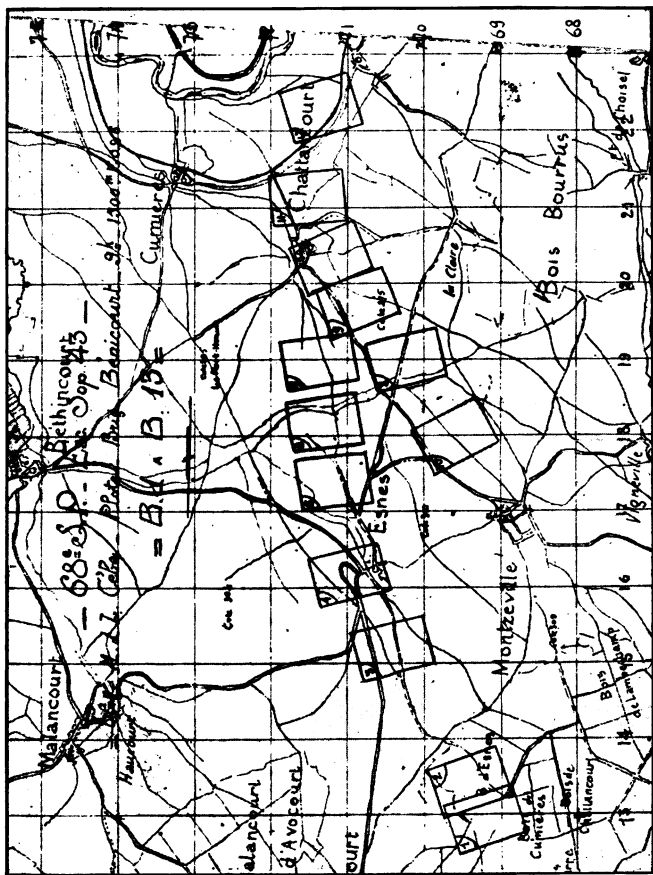
it dangerous as a manoeuvring ground. Details were employed to pick up this loaded ammunition and place it in charge of the munition officer. But even this did not suffice, for one day, while drilling, a company of the third battalion came to a halt and in an instant an explosion occurred killing one and wounding several other men. An unexploded grenade had been set off by an accidental kick or jar of the ground. Orders were immediately published regarding the policing of the territory with a view to correcting this unfortunate error, and no more accidents of this kind occurred, during our stay in this sector. After the first three weeks of occupation it was decided to teach the men the science of aggressive warfare, and some of the best trained and bravest of our men volunteered to go to the village of Vigneville and take up the work of patrolling under some very able French instructors. While in this village they were quartered among the ruins, and some were placed in a sap which had been used as a hospital earlier in the war. There were accommodations for five hundred men in this sap, and it was one of the largest in the environs of Verdun. The men were divided into smaller groups and received instructions in the various methods of patrolling, crawling through underbrush, getting from one trench and shell hole to another, snipeshooting, barbed-wire cutting, and hand-to-hand combatting.

After a week of this sort of training the men were placed in the strong points and here the patrolling parties were organized. The object of these parties was to ascertain just to what depth the Germans pene-

trated, their system of occupation, the condition of their barbed wire entanglements, and whether or not their patrols were large or small, and to answer such other questions as might arise. These patrols were known as "patrols of reconnaissance." The "combat patrols" were usually much larger and were often split into three or four groups. The objective of these patrols was to take by storm, if necessary, any positions occupied by the enemy patrols, gain information, and make prisoners. As the German occupation was very meagre it was difficult to locate the whereabouts of the enemy, and soon it was discovered that patrols were not sufficient and that large raiding parties would have to be organized.

About the time the 333rd Regiment of French infantry, which was on our left, and also a part of the Red Hand Division attempted a raid on the outskirts of the village of Malancourt, which was west of Bethincourt. The French sustained a number of casualties and captured two prisoners, who could give practically no information of any importance. The raid was not regarded as successful. It was preceded by an artillery barrage which must have put the Huns on the alert, for when the raiding party started there were few Germans in sight and from the bushes and holes a series of machine gun fusillades were sent out, which made progress impossible. The two prisoners captured were sentinels who were on duty in the advance trench or listening post. The prisoners, after being questioned, were sent back of the lines to a work camp.

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NO.



A short while after this the 371st United States Infantry, the third and last regiment of the Red Hand Division, which was on our right occupying Hill 295, known as "Mort Homme" or "Dead Man's Hill," attempted a silent raid, and were more successful as they secured one prisoner without any losses. Their raid, however, was of a different nature and was not accompanied by the artillery preparation, and they evidently surprised the German sentinels and guards.

The village of Bethincourt was regarded as one of the strong points in the German defense system in this section, and as this was opposite the position occupied by our regiment, it was soon known that we were to attempt a raid. The raiding party was divided into several groups, each group having a definite mission. The two larger groups were to act as the support of the two smaller who were to enter the town of Bethincourt and make as many prisoners as possible. The night was very cloudy and extremely dark, which rather impeded the progress of the expedition and also made the detection of the enemy the more difficult. However, the plans were to be executed without further delay and the groups started on their mission taking a boyau, which led to the stream as their course. When the stream was reached the groups sought different directions, the two smaller groups fording it at some distance on either side, and entered the town. The report stated that the raiders walked in and out among the various streets and ruins, laden with grenades, bolos, and other weapons of individual combat, but no German soldiers were

seen. It was evident that they had not occupied the town that night and that something else was afoot. After searching for over an hour the two smaller groups united and made their way back to the stream. They had hardly crossed when a volley of rifleshots and grenades was sent whizzing over their heads. On that same night the Germans had planned a silent raid on the 372nd infantry position, and their patrolling and raiding parties had probably passed ours. However, when the shots were heard our men fired in the direction from which they heard the report of the rifles. The enemy answered and a lively engagement ensued, but it was so dark that no accuracy could be maintained, and it was not until the opening of the Stokes Mortar batteries that the Germans finally retired to their lines in haste, but not confusion, for they fired until they were out of range. Neither side many any prisoners. There were several large patrols sent out after this, but without success. While on patrol one of our officers was taken prisoner. This was the first prisoner we had lost since our entry into the front lines, and it was several days before it was officially reported. During the entire seven weeks of our occupation in this sector we failed to take any prisoners, but did much to improve the condition of the ground and obtained information that was used to good advantage by the regiment that succeeded us in this sector.

While in this sector the elimination of colored officers was begun. As far back as May when the regiment was stationed in Conde-en-Barrois, the seed of

discord had been sown among our officers. This was due in a large measure to the alleged inefficiency of our leading officers. Later, as we have seen, the leader was replaced. Orders were issued that were altogether unmilitary, such as the separation of colored officers and white officers, at the officers' mess, and forbidding the colored soldiers to frequent those saloons and cafes visited by the white officers. In a word, the democracy for which the men were supposed to be fighting was ignored and ridiculed by the conduct and attitude of the higher officials of this regiment.

The type of colored officers connected with our regiment was of such nature that such actions and orders as were given by the "white staff personnel" were openly denounced, not as a breach of military discipline, but in respect to the principles and ideals of democracy. A number of resignations and requests for transfer were accordingly sent in, and thus a barrier was established between the white and colored officers, which seriously hampered the progress of the regiment. These resignations and requests were placed on file in the records of the regiment. When the change of commanders occurred the discord was apparent to the new leader and it soon became evident that some steps would have to be taken to eliminate this very unsatisfactory state of affairs.

During the latter part of August and the first part of September a court was convened by the authority of general headquarters of the American Expeditionary Forces with the power to give each of these colored

officers a trial and thus determine whether or not they were fit for military duty. Some of the staff officers of the 371st and 372nd Infantry were chosen as court officials. Each of these colored officers were placed on trial and severely cross-examined by the officials of this "Court of Elimination." Many officers were found inefficient for military duty, either because of a lack of mental capacity, of insufficient military training. In many cases a discharge was recommended, and in most of them transfers to other units were ordered. The intention of the commanding officer was now known throughout the regiment to have either "all white" or "all colored" officers in the regiment and it was apparent that there were to be all white. Seventy-seven colored officers were relieved in this manner, and the four that remained were the two dental officers and the two chaplains. Many of these officers had seen considerable service and on more than one occasion had shown that they were highly efficient, while others were young and had not the experience of the older officers, but they were all treated in the same manner by the court. About this time it was rumored that the regiment was to have white non-commissioned officers as well as white officers. The dissatisfaction was so keen that it was feared a mutiny would set in, and a laxity that assumed dangerous proportions appeared among the men. It was only the fear that the regiment might be made a stevedore outfit that finally caused any improvement in the conduct of the men. The spirit of discontent smouldered in their hearts and minds during the re-

mainder of the stay in France, and it can be easily understood why a serious drawback in progress was encountered. In this maze of entanglements several of the white officers knew that prejudice was the main reason for high-handed procedure on the part of the scheming official tricksters. They did not join with their brothers in arms to dethrone the proven gallant and brave colored officers, and shortly recommendations from General Headquarters for their removal to other commands were also posted. This seemed to be the last straw for any any chance of vindication of an organized propaganda that was seething with wild-fire rapidity throughout this unit. A blunder was made which came near blocking the major scheme when it was announced unofficially that all of the regiment's non-commissioned personnel would be displaced, and white men take their places. To make this plan appear as if it were to be accomplished, white military police were placed within the regimental confines of each battalion to over-awe the colored soldiers. This procedure set the men to thinking seriously as to what would come next, and here it was demonstrated that colored men could really trust one another. They held their own secret meetings and not a word leaked out as to what they had in their minds. The white officers who were left with the regiment were worried and keenly anxious to find out what this sudden quietude meant, for they doubtless expected an outbreak on the occasion of the last rumor. All of these men were proven soldiers and their departing officers admonished them to keep up the morale they

had already attained in order to help them vindicate themselves from the stigma of this organized perfidy.

All sorts of methods were tried in order to obtain sentiment from the men; not a man would declare himself. This demonstration of silence and contempt, it was evident, had a tremendous influence on the withdrawal of this pernicious order of a white non-commissioned personnel. The commanding officer was frantic in his efforts to secure white officers to replace the colored ones who were leaving in such numbers as to create unheard of vacancies in the commissioned personnel of the organization. Some of the line companies were commanded by enlisted men and second lieutenants. Such was the condition when the regiment was ordered to be in readiness for a move to the battle area.

In the early part of September word was received that Americans were replacing all French organizations in the Argonne and Meuse sectors, and that the French units, of which the 371st and 372nd United States Infantries were a part, were to be stationed in the Champagne or another sector west of the Meuse and Argonne sections.

On the seventh of September orders were received that directed the movement of the regiment to Bois de Brocourt, where the supply company had been stationed since our entry into the sector. Early the next morning, which was Sunday, the units began leaving their positions. It was a very rainy and disagreeable day, there being much fog, but this was considered favorable, as a good deal of the equipment and most

of the men moved under cover of the fog which made observation practically impossible. The relieving regiment was the 129th United States Infantry, and incidentally the first white regiment of American soldiers to take over the Verdun section of the front lines. Shortly after that many divisions moved in and about this sector. They came in groups and were very downcast when they beheld the ghastly and lonely aspect of the position that we had occupied for seven weeks, and during that time had made it much better than it was when we arrived. On the night of the 8th the remainder of our unit was withdrawn and all proceeded to the Boise de Brocourt.

CHAPTER VI.

FROM THE MEUSE TO THE MARNE

THE woods of Brocourt and St. Pierre were situated about six miles south of Hill 310, and were approximately one mile square. The trees were tall and stately, and in some sections the foliage was so abundant that the overhead view was completely obscured. Thus it was admirably adapted as a stopping place for troops on their way to and from the sector. There were several good roads running through this sector and these woods. A water supply had been installed, and the barracks, though very frail, were suitable for the purpose for which they were to serve. The crude cots were arranged in tiers and ran the entire length of the building, similar to the arrangement in the majority of barracks, for at this time there were millions of men to be housed, and accommodations were very scant. Most of the time was spent in gas training, as only a short while before, many projectiles containing gas had been thrown into the village of Rampont, which was inhabited. Had it not been for the assistance of the soldiers, who helped the women and children to dugouts and saps, there would have been a number of lives lost. As it was several were wounded mortally and died later.

While the regiment was resting at Bois St. Pierre,

one encountered groups in earnest discussion of what they missed or did not miss in being among the units that were hurled against the enemy in Foch's attacks. The final conclusion of all the discussion was that ours was a lucky unit to wend its way unseen through open space as it did on the night of the 8th of September. Flares and rockets were being displayed on all sides as the regiment was marching to the rear to the position of rest it was now enjoying. Had the enemy known of a troop movement in that vicinity they would have bombarded all the roads. To prove this contention, the front line they were evacuating was where the enemy had made a heroic manoeuvre and threatened to repulse the counter-attack, because of the augmentation of many crack divisions released from the east that were being concentrated at this point. Fogs and a continual drizzle of rain made possible this unobserved movement.

Very little time was spent in these woods, for on the twelfth of September we proceeded to a town three miles distant known as Souhesmes-la-Grande, which was inhabited and situated east of the woods of Brocourt and about ten miles from the lines. The regiment arrived and was quartered in the barracks before midnight. It was the general impression that we were to be here for some time, but on the very next day preparations to move were made. At seven o'clock on the night of the thirteenth a line of about 250 motor trucks appeared, and we were now aware that the next move was to be a considerable distance. As soon as they arrived the men were formed and the loading

commenced. From fourteen to eighteen men were placed in each truck, and as the latter was small there was scarcely room to move. Each man was provided with emergency rations, and some were fortunate enough to get a loaf of bread, all of which was cramped into an already crowded ration bag. The emergency ration was a few hard biscuits, a bouillion cube, a coffee cube, and a piece of chocolate. The men were ordered not to touch any part of the ration until ordered to do so. Many, however, had devoured the chocolate before the order reached them, for it was very seldom that chocolate could be secured for any price. One interesting and amusing feature of this trip were the little Siamese chauffeurs, who were very short in stature, standing from four to five and one-half feet in height. A few of them could speak French fluently, and a few words of conversation were exchanged in that language between them and our men.

Nearly two hours were spent in loading and at nine o'clock it was announced that all was in readiness. There were about two hundred and fifty trucks in this long column, and soon a very spectacular procession was progressing along the road leading from Souhesmes-la-Grande. Many villages were passed, including Bar-le-Duc, St. Dizier, and Chalons. A number of stops were made, some on account of accidents to individual cars and others to allow the men to stretch their stiffened muscles. Very few could sleep as the continuous jogging and pushing and shouts of the men made this a difficult proposition. After nineteen hours of riding a dusty and tired group of men

arrived in Juzanvigny, a very small village about twenty miles south of Chalons-sur-Marne. There were not sufficient accommodations for the regiment in this village and the battalions were quartered in adjoining villages, while the headquarters, and supply company remained in Juzanvigny. A drill schedule was prepared at once by the new commander as it was regarded as risky to have a large number of men concentrated in one place with nothing to occupy their minds and time. On the sixteenth the regiment was formed in battle formation and put through a prescribed series of manoeuvres. Late that afternoon the entire regiment was called in, for orders had just been received that we were to leave this village at six o'clock the following morning. Preparations were immediately made to leave, and after a refreshing sleep the men were aroused and at five o'clock on the morning of the 17th the column headed for the village of Brienne-le-Chateau, where they were to entrain. The village was about five kilometers distant and contained a number of factories and other buildings of historic interest, among which was the building where Napoleon Bonaparte received some of his schooling. The loading of the train required much time, and it was nearly noon before the regiment was finally under way. After about three hours' ride a stop was made in the city of Vitry-les-Francois, the largest city we had seen since leaving the coast. A meagre supper was served and the regiment, with the exception of a few men who had been left behind to guard the baggage, proceeded on their long hike to Jussecourt,

which was recorded as 29 kilometers, or about 18 miles distant.

As usual, the men were in heavy marching order. To have been relieved of any excess equipment on this occasion would have been welcomed by all, as this was the most disagreeable hike since the memorable one from Vaubecourt to Conde-en-Barrois. Before the regiment had left the environs of Vitry-les-Francois many of the men, mostly replacements, were staggering under their heavy load. About six kilometers from the town a rest period was ordered, and platoon leaders were asked by their commanders as to the condition of their men, and to account for the number of absentees, who had fallen out of the ranks overcome by their heavy packs and intense heat. Nearly an hour was lost on the march trying to urge the stragglers on. The regiment finally moved again and slowly with jaded countenances they hiked eight kilometers when another halt was ordered as it was nearing time for mess. The Colonel was eager to get the command to an open spot where water was plentiful and forage for the animals could be easily obtained. An advance party was sent ahead of the column, and soon a messenger came back with the glad news that a place for bivouac had been found. After the locality had been pronounced satisfactory the men were ordered to pitch their pup tents as a stay was to be made here for the night and the march would be resumed the next morning. The men were so fatigued and weary that they did not take the time to prepare as soldiers should, and some fell upon the ground and

went to sleep as if they were snugly tucked away in their beds at home. Those who knew from experience the benefits of a pup tent set up their temporary shelters for in the distance low mutterings of thunder and occasional flashes of lightning were observed. A fierce storm broke loose and those who did not put up their pup tents were drenched and their accoutrements scattered in all directions. Those who did get their rest were awakened at dawn as an order to move had been issued and at seven o'clock on the morning of the 18th of September the men were again hiking. They were much refreshed in spite of their broken rest, and had little trouble in hiking the remainder of the distance, arriving at their destination at two o'clock that afternoon.

To our surprise many of the colored officers who had been relieved from duty were allowed to make this trip with the regiment. The commanding officer had received no orders for the relieved officers to travel to the destination of reclassification, and, accordingly a dispatch was sent urging that these officers be immediately sent away as their appearance among the soldiers might cause disturbances among the rank and file, who were in sympathy with their deposed officers.

The men were quartered in villages adjoining Jussecourt as was always the case when one village did not have sufficient accommodations for the regiment. Many tried to hire vacant rooms that were not in use by the inhabitants and some were successful, but the majority were forced to occupy the usual barns and lofts. While here a good deal of the

baggage was sorted out and stored away, for it was apparent that the regiment was going into a real "live" sector and all luggage must be reduced to a minimum. The equipment of the men was also reduced. They were ordered to take the uniform worn by them, one extra change of underwear and what few toilet articles each individual deemed necessary for himself. Consequently a much lighter regiment left the village of Jussecourt on the night of September 20th, and proceeded by foot to the village of Con-tault, approximately eight miles distant. The march was accomplished by midnight, and as there was no program for the following day the boys slept late in the stalls and barns they had found vacant. On the night of September 21st we proceeded to Dommartin-sur-Yevre arriving there about two o'clock on the morning of the 22nd. There were several large fields and hills just outside of this village, and on the afternoon of the 22nd a mock attack was ordered. The small cannon were put in readiness, the assaulting waves were formed, and at a signal the whole regiment was in action, driving an imaginary foe back over the hills and taking and establishing positions that commanded the surrounding area. This was merely the forerunner of the big attack destined to come a few days later. On the night of the 22nd we resumed our hike, and as there were many cross roads some of the units did not reach their destination until nearly daybreak on the 23rd. We were now within hearing of the huge cannon on the Champagne fields. There were no villages near and the men were quar-

tered in small patches of woods and camps, the headquarters being stationed at Camp les Maigneux. Here a few men of the 369th Infantry were encountered, and the men in talking with them learned that the regiment to which they belonged was to open the attack on the morning of the 26th in liaison with several African and French regiments. At this point many of the records were left and more equipment, as we were now nearing the battle line, and there would be no necessity for "extras." That night we proceeded through the village of Valmy and arrived at Hans before midnight. The men were quartered quickly, and word was spread for them to get all the rest they could the next 48 hours. A temporary thrill surged through the men when this was repeated throughout the command, and now were all in grim readiness to move forward when it was learned that the regiment was to be a part of the gigantic Foch offensive from the North Sea to the Swiss Border. Many divisions were to be included in this final effort to turn all the German forces back toward Berlin.

CHAPTER VII.

THE CHAMPAGNE DRIVE

SECHAULT—BUSSY FARMS—MONTHOIS

THE village of Hans was one of the nearest inhabited villages to the firing line. Many of the buildings had been torn down by German shell fire, but the few remaining walls and houses were occupied by people of such a tenacious temperament that they refused to leave even under the most hazardous conditions. Less than three miles away were the first lines of the Germans. Several important military roads led to this village, and thus it was considered a suitable base for units operating in this sector, known as the heart of Champagne. There were several large buildings which were in use as places to store all the equipment that was not to be carried to the firing line. During their two days of rest, the 24th and 25th of September, many of the men who were observant or curious wandered all about the town, and others ventured out on the hills some distance from it.

Here they saw sights which were indicative of an attack on a large scale. Some of the objects that exacted their particular attention were huge guns mounted on trucks, and were propelled by large locomotives. They were manned by French and

African troops, who took delight in explaining some of the important features to these interested and curious spectators. The projectiles thrown by these guns were among the largest employed during the war, standing several feet in height and having a diameter of about fourteen inches. They were so heavy that they had to be loaded by means of a hoisting device, which lifted the shell up to the muzzle of the gun either by electrical or steam power. The hoisting apparatus was attached to the truck on which the gun was mounted and the shells were arranged in piles at such distance from the truck as would allow the crane to swing directly over and thus facilitate the loading of the gun. The guns were similar to American naval guns, and were doubtless American made, as they closely resembled the coast defence guns situated at various forts along the American coast. They were from twenty to thirty feet in length and when fired the recoil was so great that a track had to be placed in the rear sloping upward at an angle of about 20 degrees. To illustrate this, several of the large African soldiers put their shoulders against the gun and shoved it back several feet. There were four wheels under each gun, which were fitted with a contrivance similar to a brake. These were set into action automatically when the gun was discharged. The brakes, with the aid of the sloping track, sufficed to take up the recoil, after which the gun would roll down into position again. These shells could be thrown from twelve to twenty miles and be effective. There were all manner and all calibres of guns, rang-

ing from these huge monsters in the rear of the lines to the small 37 millimeter cannon, which were almost up to the front lines. Everything in the area presented a scene of readiness.

Farther up in the front line positions the black fighters, both African and American, were being held as a group of hunting dogs in readiness to dart forward at the signal. A marked impatience and fierceness prevailed among the African troops, whose valor as assaulting forces were unsurpassed by any of the Allies. Two regiments of these fierce African soldiers, the 369th regiment of American black soldiers, and several regiments of French infantry opened the attack on the morning of the 26th of September after an all night barrage of artillery, and were relieved by the 157th, or Red Hand Division, consisting of the 333rd French Regiment and the 371st and 372nd regiments of American infantry.

The roads running through the village of Hans were crowded with an endless line of motor trucks which contained all sorts of ammunition and supplies. These were taken to points further along the road in order that they could be accessible when the advance began, for retreat was not thought of in this offensive. Tons and tons of food and powder were placed in these huge underground store houses.

On the afternoon of the 25th of September the Division was ordered to be in readiness for immediate advance. The men were stripped of all their equipment with the exception of their fighting armament and one blanket. Emergency rations were distri-

buted. The French haversacks were piled away in the large buildings that were used as storehouses and a detail of seven men considered unable to go into the attack were left to guard each of the houses. The men were cautioned not to take any cherished belongings with them. At dusk on that memorable day all preparations were completed and the Division lay in readiness. The attack was scheduled to commence at 10 o'clock that night. This was now generally known throughout the village, and all waited with bated breath for the few remaining hours to pass. The night was very dark and still and the very atmosphere suggested the calmness that precedes the storm.

THE BETTER PART OF VALOR*

Are you a brave man or a coward?

It takes a brave man to stand up for his principles. Cowards stand behind leaders and die, imagining that by so doing they become heroes.

The motive of an act is its measure. If you think the war is hell and that you, as a citizen of the United States of America, have no business to be fighting in France for Enaldna you are a coward to stay with it. If you had the courage to face criticism you would get out and over the top in no time to a place where there is some likelihood that you may see home again.

WHAT BUSINESS IS THIS WAR IN EUROPE TO YOU ANYHOW?

You don't want to annex anything, do you? You don't want to give up your life for the abstract thing—humanity.

If you believe in humanity and that life is precious save your own life and dedicate it to the service of your own country and the woman who deserves it of you.

Lots of you fellows stay with it because you are too

*German propaganda circulated among our troops during the critical period of the war. This is characteristic of their unsuccessful attempts to destroy Allied morale.

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cowardly to protest, to assert your own wills. Your wills are the best judges of what is best for you to do. Don't ask any one's opinion as to what you would better do! You know best what is the right thing to do. Do it and save your life! Germany never did any harm to you; all the newspaper tales of wrongs were printed to inflame you to the fighting pitch; they were lies; you know you can't believe what you read in the papers.

If you stay with the outfit ten chances to one, **ALL YOU WILL GET OUT OF IT WILL BE A TOMBSTONE IN FRANCE.**

HOW TO STOP THE WAR

Do your part to put an end to the war! Put an end to your part of it. **STOP FIGHTING!** That's the simplest way. You can do it, you soldiers; just stop fighting and the war will end of its own accord. You are not fighting for anything anyway. What does it matter to you who owns Metz or Strassburg; you never saw those towns nor knew the people in them, so what do you care about them? But **THERE IS A LITTLE TOWN HOME IN LITTLE OLD UNITED STATES** you would like to see, and if you keep on fighting here in the hope of getting a look at those German fortresses you may never see home again.

THE ONLY WAY TO STOP THE WAR IS TO STOP FIGHTING. That's easy. Just quit it and slip across "No Man's Land" and join the bunch that's taking it easy there waiting to be exchanged and taken home. There is no disgrace in that. That bunch of American prisoners will be welcomed just as warmly as you do who stick it out in these infernal trenches. Get wise and get over the top.

There is nothing in the glory of keeping up the war. But think of the increasing taxes you will have to pay the longer the war lasts the larger those taxes at home will be. Get wise and get over.

All the fine words about glory are tommy rot. **YOU HAVEN'T GOT ANY BUSINESS FIGHTING IN FRANCE.** You would better be fighting your fellow soldiers in gray over here where it doesn't really matter two sticks to you how the war goes.

Your country needs you, your family needs you and **YOU NEED YOUR LIFE FOR SOMETHING BETTER** than being gassed, shot at, deafened by cannon shots

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and rendered unfit physically by the miserable life you must live here.

The tales they tell of the cruelties of German prison camps are fairy tales. Of course you may not like being a prisoner of war, but anything is better than this infernal place with no hope of escape except by being wounded, after which you will only be sent back with another hole in your body.

Wake up and stop the war! You can if you want to. Your government does not mean to stop the war for years to come, and the years are going to be long and dreary. **YOU BETTER COME OVER WHILE THE GOING IS GOOD.**

At eleven o'clock the hills and valleys spat up a storm of iron and hailed shells over the lines with unheard of rapidity, which transformed the stillness and calmness of a few moments before into a terrific nerve-racking and tumultuous pandemonium. The deathlike darkness was now a crimson light becoming brighter and brighter as the hours passed. Rockets, signals, exploding shells and bombs and all manner of war-like contrivances sped through the air spelling death and destruction to all within their reach. For six hours every gun belched forth hot iron and poisonous gasses, which sped over the heads of the black fighters with a dull and unearthly whiz, killing, burning and destroying. At daybreak on the morning of the 26th of September there was a lull in the artillery fire, and it was then that the black American and African soldiers in liaison with the French soldiers leaped out, shouting like maniacs and pouring over the embankments through the few remaining strands of barbed wire charged the enemy positions, which had been literally torn to pieces by

the hellish barrage of the preceding night. Many dead and wounded Germans were lying about, some still drawing their breath, while others undertook to defend the remnants of their fortifications. Never was there a more appalling sight. The furious Africans plunged onward waving their arms and huge knives with fiendish glee, charging German machine-gun nests with absolute disregard of death and injury. Although their ranks were seriously depleted by the unerring machine-gun fire of the Huns, they drove on taking one position after another, leaving nothing but the wounded and dead, and utter destruction in their wake. The American blacks advanced in a more scientific manner, using the wave formation, which made it appear that there were double the number of men. They used shell holes and deserted and ruined trenches as a cover from the fierce and well-directed machine-gun fire of the Huns. They poured machine-gun fire and grenades into the Hun ranks, which were fast becoming thinner and more demoralized. Groans of agony, curses, prayers, and all manner of heartrending cries rose up from the lips of the wounded and dying men, but this served as a stimulus. With shouts of hatred and vengeance these blacks pressed on and finally a heroic charge made a break in the Hun lines. Soon they were wildly retreating from the ruthless and unmerciful attack of these black men. All morning the battle progressed until every German had been driven from the village of Ripont and positions in that vicinity.

Behind our men were the artillery crews rushing

from one place to another performing all sorts of tasks in an effort to maintain the artillery fire. Empty shells were being loaded on trucks and new ones were brought up. Powder was handled without regard to danger. The men at the guns were cursing and constantly demanding more and more ammunition in order that they might continue their fierce fire in answer to the signals that were sent up on the front.

Never in the lives of the men had they witnessed such a commotion in the air. Hundreds of aeroplanes, both French and German, swarmed through the atmosphere belching forth machine-gun fire at each other and swooping down on the observation balloons. At intervals some unfortunate avion was seen to dash headlong to the ground, his machine in flames.

In the meantime the Red Hand Division was held in the reserve position, and the men were wondering what was done with the wounded men for as yet they had seen none come by. In the afternoon their vigilance was rewarded when the first ambulances driven by daredevil American Red Cross workers appeared with their human freight holding on stolidly to the little life that was life in them as these small speeding marvels of mercy bumped and jerked over the road to the hospitals. The crimson hue that had soaked through the hastily adjusted bandages could be plainly seen, and from one end of the town to the other soldiers stood on both sides of the roadway scrutinizing the results of the bloody carnage that was taking place on the front. Later in the afternoon this procession abated somewhat, and in a distance

coming down from a hill could be seen a massive wave of green, which proved to be the vanguard of German prisoners of war marching slowly with French and Morroccan calvary escort to the detention pen which had been erected in the rear. When the silent procession reached the confines of the town derisive shouts arose from all sides, the French soldiers acting more turbulently than the rest, and making the victims appear more downcast and crestfallen than they really were. Most of these prisoners appeared very young; their faces had expressions as if their cares and worries were over. They did not seem to understand the taunts that were being flung at them. There were several officers of high rank among them, who, by their expression, showed that they were jaded and that their proud nature had deserted them for they plodded wearily along with their eyes focussed on the ground.

At dusk on the 26th of September the Red Hand Division was ordered forward, and with determination the men formed into companies and platoons and proceeded to the battlefield, not one of them knowing whether or not they would ever retrace their steps. But their minds were made up that their brothers-in-arms had gone before them and they must do the same. The route lay through the trenches and boyaux, and just before dark a halt was ordered as we were approaching the observed area, and were subject to aerial bombardment if the enemy focussed on our moving troops. The enemy was rapidly retreating and their artillery fire, though incessant, was constantly

becoming weaker and weaker. Early on the morning of the 27th we arrived at the village of Ripont, the first stronghold of the Germans which had been wrested from them by the troops the day before. At a casual glance one could see that very neat soldiers had occupied these places and had been in them many months until this sudden attack had driven them into the open to suffer the rigors of war. With the guns bursting with maddening effect, the soldiers who had witnessed the harrowing scenes of the day and night before experienced a curious craving for a first-hand knowledge of what this bloody battle, as it raged, was like. Again darkness fell, the chilly atmosphere putting stimulating energy into souls who felt if they were lucky, perchance they would survive the slaughter which they thought in silence would come as soon as the unit advanced. In the midst of this cataclysm of sound orders from the division headquarters came for another forward movement in the darkness. The men advanced over a recently constructed roadway into the open where the shell bursts could be seen, a dead line for further advance until the artillery of our division should be unlimbered for action. The column moved along easily until the corduroy section of roadway was reached when the men began to feel the effects of their hike through the darkness in the midst of this murderous shell-fire.

About two o'clock on the morning of the 27th of September all the units reached their destination and by four o'clock it was reported at division headquarters that all was well and that the division had arrived

without mishap. The billets were full of all sorts of paraphernalia which had been left by the enemy soldiers in their hasty retreat of the day before, and the men, being tired turned in for a few hours' sleep, to prepare for the great push which was not many hours away.

During the next morning the men of the 369th and some of the Moroccan units were met coming back in groups and the 157th division was moving up. There was a lull in the battle as the change was made, and during this lull the enemy fortified his position on the hill north of Ripont for he knew that the Allied troops would soon strike again.

Shortly before midday on the 27th the 157th division started into action taking the place of the Morrocans and 369th regiment of Americans, for their ranks were now seriously depleted. But in spite of this they maintained the positions they had taken until relief came in the form of our division. The third battalion was of the 372nd regiment was ordered to open the attack on the new position, and they were soon advancing very cautiously for the German artillery fire was well directed. Soon they approached the place where the signal was given to separate and deploy into assaulting waves. The Germans had evidently determined to make a stand here for they fought fiercely, giving back volley for volley, but the fierceness of the fresh troopers' attack and the timely artillery fire proved too much for the German morale and the "kultured" troops turned again and fled in disorder followed by the bloodthirsty blacks. The

stiffest resistance was met at Bussy Farms, which was a strong point in the German defense system and it was here that many men of the 372nd were killed and wounded. The next day the attack was resumed with greater fierceness and the third battalion reinforced by the first battalion renewed their attack on Bussy Farms. It seemed that the infantry could not get the German out of the town, and artillery was asked for. Some came, but it was apparently insufficient for the Germans appeared loath to leave and most of them stuck to their posts, which were in shell holes, trenches and in adobe structures which had been used by them as shelters, but were now tottering walls. It was only when these men charged the position regardless of all save driving the Huns out of it that they showed signs of weakening. In the charge the Huns had poured machine-gun fire into our ranks and the men fell so fast that it looked as if the attack would have to be abandoned until more help arrived. However, a number of nervy and brave non-commissioned officers reorganized their platoons and charged again. At the same time a barrage opened up, for some new guns had been moved in behind our troops and their well-directed fire, together with the tenacity of our men, proved too much for the Germans and they again retreated from Bussy Farms, and all along the division front. After taking this position the advance became more rapid for the next German stronghold was several kilometers away in the village of Ardeuil. Several smaller villages had to be taken before reaching Ardeuil, among which were Grateuil

and Sechault. The town of Sechault was taken and lost several times before it finally rested in possession of our men. The German batteries poured such a hail of iron into the town that the troops were hastily withdrawn and took their position outside of the town. Here they were ordered to halt until the regiments on our flanks had caught up. A sharp wedge had been driven into the enemy ranks and to go any further might have meant capture or complete destruction should the enemy attack from either flank. The hardest part of the fighting was finished on September 30 when the village of Ardeuil was taken together with enormous supplies and munitions. Our objective was Monthois, an important railway center and also a base of supply. The German resistance was completely broken, their morale was entirely destroyed and the few remaining days of our attack were of a much calmer nature. The village of Monthois was partly surrounded on October 3rd, and a stiff engagement ensued as the Germans evidently wanted to hold this town until they had moved most of their supplies. The artillery fire, however, made it impossible for either side to occupy the town. From then until the 7th of October there were many minor engagements, but the black heroes maintained the positions they had taken at such a sacrifice of blood and men. Finally on the night of the sixth and the morning of the seventh of October the men were withdrawn and were replaced by the 70th Regiment of French Infantry. They were marched back to the village of Minaucourt where ten days previous they



MAJOR SAMUEL M. JOHNSON, 372ND INFANTRY

had spent a miserable night in trenches without any protection from the weather or dangers that lurked within a short distance. The remainder of the day was spent here and the men enjoyed the first sleep they had in many days. Many were in such a mentally shaken and nerve-racked condition that it was necessary to send them to the hospitals or put them under medical care.

157th D. I.
No. 5508

October 8, 1918.

From: Colonel Quillet, Commanding the 157th I. D.
To Colonel Tupes, Commanding the 372nd Infantry.

The Colonel, Commanding the I. D., has recommended your regiment for a citation in the orders of the French Army worded as follows:

"Gave proof, during its first engagement, of the finest qualities of bravery and daring which are the virtues of assaulting troops.

"Under the orders Colonel Tupes dashed with superb gallantry and admirable scorn of danger to the assault of a position continuously defended by the enemy,—taking it by storm under an exceptionally violent machine gun fire and very severe losses. They made numerous prisoners, captured cannon, machine guns, and important war material."

(Signed) QUILLET.

Copy of Translation.
Official:
Hq. 372nd Inf.

* The recognition of valor by our Division Commander

The night of October 7th was spent here and on the morning of the 8th the remainder of the regiment marched back to Hans. It was a pitiful sight to perceive these ragged, tired, hungry and bloodstained warriors as they slowly trudged into the village bur-

dened with the terrible ordeal of ten days in a "man-made hell." The men were quartered in the environs of the villages of Hans and Somme-Bionne, and the next three days were spent in delousing and recuperating.

This was the first occasion that the regiment had to be deloused as a unit. The men were marched to the delousing plant in groups, their clothing was taken from them and they were conducted to the showers which, though very crudely and roughly constructed, were luxurious when compared to the conditions that had previously existed during the occupation of the battle line. The water was heated and for the first time in many days a real hot water bath was experienced. An anti-lice preparation was then thrown over the boys, which was some liquid matter similar to vinegar. They were then rinsed and conducted to the drying room. Here were several windows where the deloused clothing was passed out. While the boys were bathing their clothing was put into cylinders and steamed for thirty minutes. This killed all the eggs and other signs of vermin, and now they were ready to be given back to their owners. By means of the identification tags attached to the bundles the men at these windows could tell whom the clothes belonged to. They shouted the names or army serial numbers and tossed the bundle over to the man that answered; he grabbed them, shook them and hastily dressed. The clothes were so wrinkled that the men could scarcely be recognized as they left the delousing plant carefree and lousefree.

Many scars were left on the bodies of the troops by these lice, who were larger than any that the men had ever heard of.

The following three days a rest was enjoyed by all who had participated in the experiences of the previous two weeks. An estimate was made of the casualties, as it was almost impossible to ascertain the number of killed and wounded until the hospitals were heard from, and this would be many days, for the attendants were busily engaged in caring for the wounded men. After several days of counting it was estimated that the killed, wounded and missing in action was approximately 800. No sooner was this determined than steps were taken to secure replacements. The young and inexperienced drafted men seemed to suffer the heaviest casualties, as many had had scarcely any training before being sent overseas.

The same condition existed among the young white officers, some of whom had not been in France thirty days before they were ordered to lead men into one of the fiercest and bloodiest battles of the war. These were replaced by more officers of the same type, brave and willing, but not sufficiently versed in modern war methods to assume leadership.

After the delousing the men were given back their haversacks and personal belongings, some of which were contaminated and in a short while it was necessary to hold inspections and all men found infected with the troublesome vermin were again put through the delouser.

On the morning of the twelfth it was announced

that the entire division was to move to a sector some 250 miles distant, and not far from the northern boundary of Switzerland. This was known as the Vosges sector, so called on account of the Vosges mountains which arose to dizzy heights. All that day preparations were made and at night the march to Valmy began. The trip was to be made in the French box cars while the wagons and other regimental transportation facilities were to be transported on flat cars. There were many sections of the train and they went by various routes. During the night of the 12th and the early morning of the 13th of October all were busy loading their respective sections, while away to the north could be seen the crimson sky and the sound of the guns roared faintly, indicating that the Germans were still retreating. The night was chilly and damp and the hours dragged slowly as the cars one by one were being loaded. By daylight the sections were ready. Next came the human cargo which was to be packed into the box cars. This was accomplished without any loss of time and soon the signal to start was given, and thus the famous 157th division departed from the Champagne battlefield where they had attached more fame and glory to their name.

P. C. October 7th, 1918.

9th Army Corps
Staff 3rd Bureau
No. 257

NOTES

The 157th Division and the 2nd Moroccan Division are leaving the Army Corps. The General, commanding the 9th Corps addresses to them his most sincere thanks and his warmest congratulations for the glorious suc-

cesses achieved by their admirable ardor and their indomitable tenacity. He salutes the brave American regiments, who have rivalled in intrepidity their French Comrades.

We cannot recount here the feats which have been performed for every one of those, the days of that victorious journey, they have inscribed on the conquered ground materialized by the trophies taken by them from the enemy and engraved in the heart of their chief, who bows before the troops and salutes them profoundly.

The General Carnier Duplossis,
Commanding the 9th C. A.

* An expression of gratitude from the French High Command.

CHAPTER VIII.

THE VOSGES SECTION

BAN-DE-LAVELINE. GRANGES-SUR-VOLOGNE .

THE following day and night were spent hilariously not withstanding the fact that these men, who had hardly recuperated from the terrible ordeal on the Champagne, were cramped very uncomfortably into the French box cars, of which we have heard before.

On the morning of October 14th the men were ordered to debark as this phase of our journey was at an end and the rest was to be accomplished on foot. As this had been the first opportunity to relax since the beginning of the trip the men were quite as young children at recess time in school. So unmanageable did they become that it was necessary to issue orders forbidding them to leave the immediate vicinity of their respective cars. It was several hours before the men could leave the railroad because of the large amount of regimental rolling stock on hand, all of which was taken from the train and sent ahead before the regiment started. At eleven that morning the order to move was issued and soon the companies were formed and on their way to the village of St. Leonard nineteen kilometers distant. Never had such wonderful scenery been witnessed as was visible

here on the slopes and table land of the Alps and Vosges mountains. The roads were free from the mud that had hitherto been such an inconvenient and disgusting factor in all previous hikes in the war-ruined area. The composition of these roads was similar to the asphalt pavements and roads that are seen in the United States, but we were informed that the material was the terrain in its natural state. The nature of the terrain throughout France was well adapted to road-making, but in this particular section the adaptability was more pronounced as the condition of the road showed scarcely any wear despite the continuous transportation over it.

Hills and mountains predominated. On the sides were various garden patches of different shades of green arranged according to the French ideas of gardening, and though it looked peculiar it was pleasing to the eye. Intermingled with these multi-colored spots of vegetation were patches of green woods and here and there were white roads winding in and out. At this season of the year the verdure showed the many beautiful autumn blends of colors which none but Mother Nature can paint. The aspect was calm and refreshing, and in spite of the many hills that had to be "pulled" the twelve-mile hike was enjoyed to the utmost by these war-hardened men who had been observing the most ghastly scenes on the entire battlefield only a few days before.

About five o'clock on the afternoon of October 14th, the men, somewhat fatigued arrived at the village of St. Leonard and were quartered in several surround-

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ing towns. The men made preparations for a long stay thinking that they were now at a rest area, but such was not the case for on the 15th of October orders were issued to the regiment and at six o'clock on the morning of October 16th, we were again under way. This hike was one of about ten miles and was accomplished during the 16th and 17th October, each battalion starting at different times. Instead of the long rest that had been anticipated by the men of the regiment they were placed in another sector, very much more quiet, but still none the less nerve-racking, as a constant watch was necessary at all times. The regimental headquarters was situated at Ban-de-Laveline, a small village between two mountain peaks and connected with the other neighboring villages by heavily camouflaged roads. In spite of the camouflage there were so many points of observation that it was practically impossible to traverse these roads without detection and consequent bombardment. Thus on October 17th when the Machine-Gun Company and the Second battalion of our regiment, the last group to arrive at this sector, were marching along the road they were bombarded and several casualties were inflicted. The day before had been rainy and foggy, and for this reason the first sections of the regiment made the entire trip without detection. During the night of the 16th the French regiment was relieved and the men of the 372nd regiment took over their fifth sector since their arrival in France and their entry into active operations, on June 5th. This sector was in some respects similar to the Argonne. There had

never been any hard fighting in this section because the highest and most strategic points on either side were strongly fortified, and to have passed them would have meant a loss that could not have been counter-balanced by the ground gained. The hills were heavily mined, and the mere pressing of a few electric buttons was sufficient to stop the progress of a whole assaulting division. The chief means of warfare were the cannon, and their operation was restricted to certain areas by means of some sort of a pact or agreement that had sometime previous been made between the two hostile parties. No towns near this area were to be shelled as they were all inhabited by civilians.

On the hills just outside of these protected towns were white flags, which were understood as the markers of the bombardment area. No shells were directed inside these markers according to the pact. The front line was several miles distant from the regimental P. C., and had it not been for the telephone liaison would have been very difficult. The town of Ban-de-Laveline was seven miles from St. Die, one of the largest and most enterprising cities of the Vosges section. Here were several factories, large stores, manufacturing plants and indeed all forms of modern progressiveness were exhibited.

The conditions here were very different from those that had existed in the western and the north-central part of France where we had been. Instead of the ramshackle huts and dwellings that were seen there were the modern up-to-date structures, that showed some signs of architectural fineness. The roofs in

most cases were of slate, the walls symmetrical, the windows artistically arranged and patterned and were in keeping with the outside features of the dwellings; all of which was indicative of a better and higher standard of living. The streets were kept clean, the yards and surroundings of the houses showed signs of cleanliness and sanitation. The interior of the houses presented the same contrast compared with houses of western and north-central France. The floors in many of them were of hardwood and polished, carpets were laid, modern furniture filled the rooms, and in most cases they were illuminated by electricity. The stores and shops were larger and more orderly and contained a variety of goods, chief of which were articles that were for souvenirs. In many respects the appearance of the towns, houses, shops and every feature indicated a different mode of living. One could ascertain at a glance that the people themselves were just as different from their brothers in the other sections of France as was indicated by the living conditions. Physically, they were well developed showing by their actions the sturdiness of the Anglo-Saxon, the hardiness of the Alpine Mountaineer and the determination and doggedness of the Teuton. Having these assets, it is little wonder that these Alsatians and Lorrainians are the most enterprising, thrifty and progressive people in France. The faces were rotund, their muscles well developed and of firm texture, their carriage erect and somewhat haughty, and they were larger in size than any of the French people we had previously been in contact with.

As they had inherited the physical assets of the three great races they also possessed characteristics which were dominant in their ancestors. By keenly observing their conversation in their directness and positiveness of manner could be seen the aggressive and speculative mental qualities characteristic of the Anglo-Saxon, the adroitness and tenacity that the Teuton has proven by his scientific research work and accomplishments along other lines requiring prolonged mental activity, and the alertness and keen instinct of the mountaineer. Such a group of people as these were a valuable asset to any nation, and this was doubtless one of the facts that made Alsace and Lorrain such a coveted territory.

In spite of the fact that they were in an occupied sector the men lived rather luxuriously compared to the days in the Meuse and Marne sections. Dugouts were not so extensively used, and for shelter the men sought half-ruined houses that had been vacated by those people who did not wish to live in such an uncertain environment. Although they left but a few articles of furniture these were utilized by those who were fortunate enough to claim them. An old bed or table, several chairs that were usually found in each of these houses were patched up and made usable by these luxury hunters. It was a novelty as well as a luxury.

There was but one active operation while in this sector and this occurred on the 10th of November shortly before the signing of the Armistice. A raiding party was organized and went out on the night of November

10th with the mission to capture some Germans who had been seen moving mysteriously on their side of the front lines. Only a week previous it had been reported that several Germans had penetrated our lines and were making observations. The raiding party was successful as far as capturing the prisoners was concerned, but they were destined to become prisoners themselves. Of the five prisoners taken one spoke excellent English and he informed one of the leaders, a young white officer, that some more Germans were near and he would lead the raiding party to their whereabouts in a few moments' time. Unwittingly the leader agreed and soon he and his entire raiding party were made prisoners by a larger party of German raiders, who had taken this means of capturing them. When the men saw they were being surrounded they immediately engaged their opponents, and several casualties occurred during the exchange of shots and grenades. We lost one officer and twenty-two men as prisoners and one wounded seriously, several others slightly. The signing of the armistice shortly afterward made possible their return to the regiment.

Never had such a joyous fete occurred in the town of Ban-de-Laveline when on the 11th of November hostilities were brought to an end. The celebration lasted days, and among the French "poilus" it was several weeks before their uncontrollable jubilation subsided. Old men and women romped like children, some were so happy they cried, others laughed and shouted hysterically. All proprieties and conventionalities gave way to joy. The American soldiers

were none the less hilarious. The band was called out and the whole day was spent in singing, marching, and other devotions and patriotic exercises. The town mayor ordered the electric power house to commence operations again and one o'clock that same afternoon he had the bulbs placed in the street lights, and for the first time in four years the streets were illuminated. Never had such a contrast occurred. Even the dumb animals seemed to realize that some very unusual event had taken place. In the evening the theatre was filled with the inhabitants and soldiers and a great patriotic demonstration was soon in progress. The program was quite interesting, the talent being both French and American. Our band played selections at intervals. It was midnight before the gathering was dismissed, and there were many happy individuals who retired that night stirred to their innermost depths by the patriotism that had surged through their veins.

During the next six days the Germans were busily engaged in withdrawing their material from this territory and blowing up all mines and munition dumps that were laid among these hills. For three days explosions were heard and the whole town was enveloped in smoke. The Germans had double the number of mines that had ever been estimated, and the Allied officers realized how futile it would have been to have attempted any large scale military operations in this particular area. Although the aeroplanes were less in number on this sector they were quite often observed before the sign-

ing of the Armistice, and several battles took place within sight of Ban-de-Laveline. None were seen during the following six days, either French or German.

On Saturday, the sixteenth of November, one month after our entry into this sector, we were ordered to a new locality thirty miles or forty-eight kilometers distant by road. The next morning at five o'clock the men were assembled and in a short time were on their way. Never did they realize that they were to hike thirty miles before they could sleep again. Nevertheless it was a reality and although the hike was accomplished without packs it was a very gruelling and tiresome walk, as the hills took much of the stamina out of the men. A portion of the regiment was accompanied by the band, and the music rendered was helpful as it caused the men to forget their fatigue for a while. At intervals a short rest was ordered, and twice during the day halts were made to eat the rough meals prepared in the rolling kitchens, consisting usually of stews or boiled rice and potatoes. The companies arrived from 9:30 to 10:30 that night in the village of Granges-sur-Vologne, tired out, sleepy, hungry, cross and impatient as they awaited for their bunks to be assigned them. Many were so fatigued that the first sheltered coop or pen they found they made it their bed for the remainder of the night. In an hour all had found some sort of sleeping quarters, and it was not until the next morning that the inhabitants found themselves intermingled with "Les Soldats Americains Noirs."

The village of Granges was larger by several times than Ban-de-Laveline, and there were an abundance of shops, markets and variety stores. It was apparent that this was a sort of a distribution point for several of the smaller surrounding towns. Like the other towns and cities in this district, it was situated between the hills and connected by means of a railroad with larger and more distant towns. There were two factories owned and operated by inhabitants of the town, and a sufficient number of other workshops to give employment to all the inhabitants who were seeking it. The town had never felt the ruinous effect of the war and all the dwellings were unscathed. Thus it presented a very fair idea of the civilian methods in time of peace. As is the case with all other towns in France occupied by military units there were two chief executives, one in the municipal branch known as the town Mayor and the other in the military branch known as the Major. Their duties were similar in many respects.

The inhabitants were cordial and gave every attention to the men, whom they frankly admired. They rented many of their rooms to those who were able to pay and gave to these war-hardened heroes the use of the entire house. Others furnished meals and made it comfortable in many ways and altogether the seven weeks that we occupied this town were luxurious to all that had the financial means to maintain this standard of living. The inhabitants devoted so much attention to the black heroes that an attempt was made to prevent their socializing with the young

French girls, who were quite carried away with the American Negroes. The musical, happy-go-lucky characteristics of the negroes had made them the favorites in more than one town. Shortly after our arrival in the town drill schedules were submitted and were soon put into effect. The men were not pleased with the idea of drilling as they considered it unnecessary now that the hostilities were at an end, but they had to obey orders. Parading was practiced and many games were played, which made the drill periods pass quickly and pleasantly. Twice a week the boys were given half holidays and were permitted to pass the time as they desired. The band rendered concerts Sundays and during the week, much to the satisfaction of the French audiences, who declared that they had never heard better music. They attended every concert.

The next week brought Thanksgiving Day, which was a rather gloomy one for the American soldiers in this village as the visions of turkey and plum-pudding danced before their eyes and then vanished. Other happy events were brought to the minds of these men and caused quite a damper to fall on their usually jovial spirits. This, however, was lifted in a few days when an order was received to pass in some equipment, which was one of the preparatory moves toward home. For a while the boys were expectant and anxiously awaited the time to go. To the utter dismay of both officers and men new orders were given to take back their equipment, and with heavy hearts and feet the boys plodded back over the roads to

Bruyeres, where they had happily turned in their arms and ammunition and were re-issued their equipment. All sorts of rumors were at once got into circulation. Some thought that the Armistice terms had been broken, but the truth was that the equipment was to be retained by the men until they reached an American base of supply where all the French equipment was to be turned in and American equipment given in exchange. When the boys returned to Granges laden with rifles, belts and other articles they were in a very downcast mood, and in order to keep up the morale parades were held by the various battalions, entertainments were more frequent and other forms of diversion were utilized. Notwithstanding the splendid democratic manner that the French people had exhibited the boys were anxious to cross the ocean again and be at home among their loved ones. Any action suggestive of an early start was greeted with applause, while doubtful movements were grimly and despondently received. Many individuals among the civilian population inquired about the changes in the attitude of the men, and when they were told their sympathy was aroused.

Many individual citations had been sent to the French Army Headquarters after the battle of Champagne, and it was announced in December that a day was soon to be set aside for the presentation of decorations as soon as the citations had been approved. The French general and his staff were to be present on that day, and it was to be regarded as a gala day by the members of the regiment. The day selected was

the 17th of December. There were many men who had been recommended for Croix de Guerre, Distinguished Service Crosses and Medailles Militaire, and the event was likely to be one of many hours duration. The day was rainy and disagreeable, and on this account some of the exercises were eliminated and only the presentation of the medals was made. The whole regiment turned out. The band escorted the recipients of the decorations to the designated place, and soon the civilians crowded closely and the exercises were begun and continued rather rapidly on account of the inclement weather.

The general and other officers made some short speeches commending the men for their brave deeds as he pinned the decorations on them. Some received two decorations, while others received three. A feeling of pride permeated the hearts of the men as they carried on their breasts the symbol which indicated patriotism and valor. Their good humor and natural spirits again returned and they were quite embarrassed when they were requested by the French girls to tell how they won their Croix de Guerres, for their knowledge of the French language was insufficient to allow a very clear description. Another week passed and Christmas was at hand; the most undemonstrative and quiet Christmas that may had ever experienced. The French Christmas was very solemn, and the celebration was confined to the walls of the church. The exchanging of gifts, the big dinner and the celebrations of the typical American Christmas were entirely absent from the French Christmas. On Christmas

night a part of the band assembled with some officers and men and paraded through the streets until a late hour in the morning singing and playing Christmas carols and folk songs. It was very impressive as the stillness of the night and the harmony of the music produced a most pleasing effect. During the week preceding and the week after Christmas most of the Christmas boxes from the folks at home were received, and in each box was found a great deal more than it actually contained. Something of a choice and tender nature was felt by each man as he carefully opened the box and took the contents therefrom, heaving a deep sigh or saying something to a friend who happened to be near. An unwritten message of love, thoughts and best wishes of the folks at home, sweet and reverent recollections filled their minds as they imagined motherly and sisterly hands carefully packing the articles in these Red Cross boxes and attaching the identical label that had been sent several weeks before in order that each box might be safely delivered. But in the army festal days are soon forgotten and the day after Christmas the drills and general routine were resumed. Rumors had been in circulation that the 372nd regiment was to be shipped to America very soon, and indications looked so favorable that it seemed almost a fact. The officers as well as enlisted men were most impatient to know just what was going to be done and on December 30th it was announced that we were to leave Granges for a trip to the coast. The news spread like wildfire and preparations were hastily and recklessly made for it was

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thought any lagging might postpone time of departure. The civilian population who had become strongly attached to the regiment received this news with a pang. It meant much to them both financially and socially, for a good many francs were spent daily in this town of Granges. The regiment was made ready that night, and in the morning the first section left, and the second section followed on the next day.

157th Division
Staff

December 15, 1918.

GENERAL ORDER NO. 245*

On the 12th of December the 371st and 372nd Infantries were replaced at the disposal of the American Command.

It is not without profound emotion that I come in the name of the 157th D. I. and in my own personal name to say farewell to our valorous comrades of battle.

During seven months we have lived as brothers in arms, sharing the same works the same fatigues, the same dangers. Side by side we have participated in the great Champagne battle which was crowned with a prodigious victory.

The 157th D. I. will never forget the irresistible dash, the heroic push of the Colored American regiments, on the "Crete des Observatoires" and in the plain of Monthois. The most formidable defenses, the best organized machine gun nests, the most smashing artillery barrages could not stop them. These elite regiments crossed all of it with a superb disdain of death, and, thanks to their courageous devotion, the Red Hand Division, during nine days of hard struggle, always held the lead in the historic advance of the Fourth Army.

Officers, non-commissioned officers and soldiers of the 371st and 372nd Infantries, I respectfully salute your glorious dead and I bow before your banners, which, on the side of the flag of the 333rd R. I., conducted us to the victory.

* The final tribute of our Division Commander.

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Dear friends from America, after you have crossed the ocean anew, forget not the Red Hand Division. Our pure fraternity of arms has been soaked in the blood of braves. These ties will be indissoluble.

Keep a loyal memory of your General, so proud to have commanded you and remember that his recognition and affection is acquired for always.

GENERAL GOYBET,
Commanding the 157th Division.

Official:
Hq. 372nd Inf.

Orders were issued, and on the first day of January the final good-byes were said and the men proceeded on foot to Laveline-devant-Bruyeres, where they entrained on the first leg of their homeward journey.

CHAPTER IX.

HOMEWARD BOUND

THE ride was long, dreary and uncomfortable, for, as usual, the troops were packed away in box cars. It had been raining almost continually since the 8th of December and everything seemed downcast, but the fact that they had started for home more than counterbalanced all drawbacks. On January 3rd at seven o'clock in the morning the men who had awakened peered out of the cracks and crevices into the city of Le Mans, which was approximately 350 miles from Granges-sur-Vologne. The ground here was low and therefore held great quantities of mud. After ploughing several miles through this in a steady downpour of rain we arrived at the forwarding camp and were assigned to a tented area. After having spent ten months in dugouts and barns, coops, and stables, we were ushered into tents on January third. The weather was cool but not cold, the tents were "lousy," as all incoming troops were considered to be infected with the vermin, and were placed here until such time as they would be deloused. For three days this miserable life was endured. The ground was so damp and uncomfortable that the men brought in branches of trees and slept on them. Others slept on boxes or whatever elevation they could find. Cots and beds were out of the question. At the end of the third day

the delousing commenced, and one company at a time was deloused and returned to barracks that were free from lice. They were not admitted to the barracks until each man had been thoroughly inspected by a medical officer. The entire regiment was treated to the delousing process and were now in the barracks with new clothing and new equipment, their old French equipment having been passed in at the delouser. The hike down was a difficult one, but the return was more difficult as each man had double the amount of equipment to bring back. They were held accountable for everything issued them.

On the tenth day of January another general inspection was held and a number of men were found with "cooties" and lice. These men were at once sent to the delouser and put through again. Finally the regiment was pronounced ready to proceed to the port of embarkation, which was generally known to be Brest. On the morning of the eleventh the hike to the cars was accomplished. A cheer rang out as an "American Jack" pulling American freight cars swung around the long curve and stopped in readiness to take these anxious impatient men to their destination, for riding in American freight cars was regarded as Pullman Service by these boys, who had ridden all over France in springless boxes set on four wheels. Soon the train was in motion, and the most luxurious and enjoyable ride on French soil came to an end on January twelfth when the regiment detrained at Brest. They had been waved good-bye and given fond adieus all along the route by the hardy Normandians

and Bretons, who occupied this section of France. Here they were served a hasty though comparatively well-prepared meal by negro service of supply men. After partaking of the meal they slung their packs, climbed one of the longest hills in the history of their "hikedom" and walked several additional miles to the embarkation camp at Brest, where they were again placed in tents. More mud was encountered here than had ever been dreamed of. It was an ordinary happening to see men and horses knee deep in the quagmire and slop. There were many regiments here and all were awaiting embarkation orders. While waiting it was the custom of each unit to assist the stevedores and service battalions in cleaning up the camp. The incessant rain and traffic made it impossible and the men themselves could see the fruitlessness of their effort, but they were forced to continue this tiresome and laborious task. Many complaints were sent in, both official and personal, and finally the crisis came. General Pershing announced that he would personally inspect the camp. Board walks were hurriedly constructed and the floors in the tents were repaired, and everything was done to be in readiness when the General should arrive. The mess halls were thoroughly cleaned, but notwithstanding all that was done it failed in its purpose for the whole camp was pronounced unsatisfactory and unsanitary. Many men had already been sick, others feigned sickness that they might get to the hospital out of the mud and slop. All were fighting a hard battle to keep upon their feet until time to embark. We remained in

these tents eight days and were sent to the delouser again, as some lice had been found during one of the inspections. These inspections were held several times a week, and as fast as the contagious individuals were found they were placed in a group and sent to the delouser. In this way it was possible to keep the men free from the vermin which seemed loath to leave them.

When we had been in Brest eleven days we were moved from the tents with all our equipment and occupied the barracks, which were floorless and nearly as bad as the tents, except that they contained crude cots.

P. C., October 8th, 1918.

157th Division
Staff

GENERAL ORDER NO. 234*

In transmitting to you with legitimate pride the thanks and congratulations of the General Carnier Duplossis, allow me, my dear friends of all ranks, American and French, to address you from the bottom of my heart,—the expression of gratitude for the glory which you have lent to our good 157th Division; I had full confidence in you, but you have surpassed my hopes.

During those nine days of hard fighting, you have progressed twelve kilometers, through powerfully organized defenses, taken nearly 600 prisoners, captured 15 guns of different calibre, 20 minimwerfers, and nearly 150 machine guns, secured an enormous amount of engineering materials and important supplies of artillery ammunition, brought down by your fire three enemy aeroplanes.

The "Red Hand" sign of the Division, thanks to you, became a bloody hand which took the Boche by the throat and made him cry for mercy. You have well avenged our glorious deed.

(Signed) COLONEL QUILLET,
Commanding 157th Division.

* The Citation

While stationed at Brest we received the regimental citation, an honor which up to that time was conferred upon only one other American regiment, the 104th of the 26th or "Yankee Division." The exercises were very formal and impressive and many civilians and military authorities witnessed this event. As before, the whole regiment turned out and paraded to the spot where the exercises were to be held. After the formalities were over the Croix de Guerre was reverently pinned to the Regimental Colors, the band played music suitable for the occasion and soon the crowd dispersed and the regiment returned to the camp with the decorated colors proudly waving.

AMEX. TROOPS AT BREST RECEIVE HIGH AWARDS

Admiral Moreau Honors 372nd Regiment for
Distinguished Services During Champagne
Offensive

(Special Telegram to the Herald)

Brest, January 24 (delayed in transmission).—The 372nd Infantry, U. S. A., colored attaches of the 157th French Division, was highly honored by France at this place when Vice-Admiral Moreau, the French commander of the port of Brest, decorated the colors of the above-mentioned regiment with the Croix de Guerre and Palm for distinguished services in the Champagne offensive.

During Sept. and Oct., 1918, individual honors had been conferred previously.

The ceremony was at the Cours Dajot, overlooking the Port of Commerce and was witnessed by thousands of French civilians and soldiers and sailors of several nations.

The American fighters, numbering about 3,000, were with the famous French "Red-Hand" division. They became heroes on many fighting-fronts, and

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were in the Vosges Mountains, training for the Metz offensive, when the armistice was signed.

They are now returning to America.

ADMIRAL MOREAU

Vice-Admiral Moreau arrived at about 2.30, and was greeted by the 372nd infantry, standing at attention along the Cours Dajot. Colonel Herschel Tupes, Lieutenant-Colonel Cooley and Captain Walsh, adjutant, of the 372nd, were present at their posts.

Major-General Helmick, of the American port of Brest, was present as a spectator.

The regimental band added much to the programme with "Keep the Home Fires Burning," patriotic selections and "Cæsar's Triumphal March."

The basis of this citation was included in the Army order in favor of the 372nd Infantry, which Colonel Quillet, commanding the I. D. of the 157th, submitted to the commanding general after the Champagne offensive battle.

SUBJECT OF COMMENDATION

The substance of Colonel Quillet's commendation of the 372nd was included in Admiral Moreau's words "To the regiment."

After the delivery of the Croix de Guerre to the regiment Admiral Moreau conferred the Croix de Guerre and Palm to Adjutant Walsh and read quotations from Colonel Quillet's commendations, mentioned above, dated and signed December 12, as follows: "Gave proof during its first engagement of the finest qualities of bravery and daring, which are the virtues of assaulting troops. Under the orders of Colonel Tupes the troops dashed, with superb gallantry and admirable scorn of danger, to the assault of a position continually defended by the enemy, taking it by storm, under an exceptionally violent machine-gun fire."

UNDER ENEMY FIRE

The regiment continued its progression in spite of enemy artillery fire and very severe losses. The advancing detachments made numerous prisoners, captured cannon, machine-guns and important war material.

The 372nd Infantry was at the front for more than six months, besides taking an active part in the Champagne offensive. The regiment was at the Ar-

gonne at Vauquois, Verdun (Hill 304) and Le Mort-Homme, and the men have been quartered for some time near Brest, where they are awaiting eagerly their return to America.

NATIONAL GUARDSMEN

The 372nd Infantry is made up of National Guardsmen, including the 1st "Separate Battalion" of Washington, D. C.; the 9th "Separate Battalion" of Ohio, the L Company of the 6th Massachusetts, the I Company from Tennessee, the K Company from Tennessee and the M Company from Connecticut.

(The New York Herald, Paris, Monday, January 27, 1919)

From this time until January 31st we struggled and fought for existence in the slough and mud. On that day our orders came to board the United States Steamer "Leviathan," formerly the Hamburg-American liner "Vaterland," the largest ship afloat. The men who were lucky to go over in this ship felt repaid in a measure for what they had undergone. Between the 31st of January and the third of February about 10,000 men were placed aboard the ship and stored away in the bunk rooms, which were large, clean, sanitary and well-ventilated. When the tender ran up along the side of this monster of steel and iron it appeared that some immortal being had constructed this huge carrier. Nearly one hundred feet above the surface of the water men could be seen walking leisurely about. The ship was 954 feet long and 105 feet beam, drawing about 45 feet of water. Her crew was approximately 2,500, and she contained 46 boilers which were manned by 900 firemen, 300 on each shift. She was capable of crossing the ocean in less than five days, and during the war she carried 17,000 men on a trip. She was indeed the "Princess of the Seas." Such



DECORATING THE REGIMENTAL FLAG, BREST FRANCE. JANUARY 27, 1919



a ship was to carry us back to the United States, and every individual that boarded it felt himself wonderfully blessed to have been so fortunate. At four o'clock on the third of February the monster slowly steamed out of the harbor and turned her nose toward America with 10,000 anxious souls on board. The boys enjoyed many games on the spacious decks of this great ship. Boxing, volley ball and all sorts of games were indulged in, the canteen was well patronized, for it had been many months since these men tasted such things as ice cream and tonics. The weather was agreeable, with the exception of two squalls, which hardly affected the ship's motion, for her bulk was so great that it would have taken a severe storm to set her rocking. For seven days the ship ploughed through wave after wave and on the eighth day land was sighted. Long Island loomed up on the western horizon, and on several sections of the ship cheers arose from those who could not control their happiness. At four in the afternoon buildings became quite clearly outlined, and once again the boys who had been through the perils of war were permitted to see their native land. There were a number of bands aboard, and these scattered to various parts of the ship and played as they had never played before. Many small craft were passed, and without exception they saluted this monster and the heroes on board. A ship bearing the word "Welcome" ushered us to the pier. An aeroplane manoeuvred above as if to express a warm welcome from the elements. The Statue of Liberty was

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passed; in another hour we would be tied up to the dock. Never did high buildings and paving blocks appeal to one as they did to these men, who had been living in underground shelters for months and months and months. Shortly after six o'clock on the eleventh of February the vessel was made fast to the pier. The men were not allowed to leave until the next morning, when the unloading began. Men were sent to various camps in the eastern and central sections of the country. The 372nd Regiment went to Camp Upton with several other units. After a most cordial reception, an appetizing lunch was tendered at the pier by the Red Cross and The Salvation Army and we were paraded to the train where thousands of cheering people filled the hearts of all of us with a feeling of pride. We were placed in real passenger coaches and soon were speeding toward Camp Upton. All along the route the noise and mirth in those trains drew the attention of the people. That afternoon about five o'clock we arrived at Camp Upton and were placed in American barracks for the first time in almost a year. While in this Camp there were no calls and drills, and men had their own way in disposing of the time.

HEADQUARTERS CAMP UPTON, NEW YORK

Feb. 14, 1919.

Memorandum: To the Commanding Officer,
372nd Infantry.

1. Your attention is invited to the fact that the Hostess House at 2nd Ave., and 13th Street is intended primarily for colored troops, and it is highly desirable that they use this hostess house exclusively, unless their numbers are so great that this particular house will not accomodate them. The officials in charge of the other hostess houses in camp report that the colored

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soldiers are crowding out the white soldiers from these houses and for obvious reasons this is not desirable. These same officials are highly anxious to please and serve the colored soldiers, but much prefer them to use the house above mentioned, which has a staff of colored women to operate it.

2. It is not considered necessary or even desirable to issue orders requiring colored soldiers to use the hostess house at 2nd Avenue and 13th Street, but all organization commanders will bring the fact of its existence to the attention of the colored troops under them, and endeavor in every way possible to have them use it exclusively.

3. This applies particularly to Sundays, when in all probability large numbers of white women will be in camp to visit the white soldiers, and it is not desirable to have them served and accommodated in the same hostess house with the families of the colored soldiers if it can be possibly avoided.

4. The co-operation of all officers on duty with colored troops now in camp is desired with a view to preventing friction between the white and colored soldiers, particularly at the cafeterias in the hostess house.

By command of Brigadier General Nicholson:

EDWARD V. HOWARD,
Adjutant General,
Adjutant.

HEADQUARTERS, 372ND INFANTRY,
CAMP UPTON, NEW YORK.

Feb. 15, 1919.

Memorandum:

The Hostess House at 2nd Avenue and 13th Street will be used by troops of this Regiment.

WALTER O. COOLEY,
Lt. Col. Inf. Commanding.

The Hostess Houses and Y. M. C. A. buildings and other places were frequented by our men, and it was in one of the hostess houses that we experienced our first taste of the Democracy we were alleged to have fought for. An order was issued forbidding the colored soldiers to patronize the white hostess house and indicating that they be restricted to the use of the

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colored hostess house, which was entirely inadequate to accommodate the thousands of newly arrived colored soldiers. The stay was only six days, and somewhat crestfallen over the conditions met with at this camp the men were returned to their original units and placed on board the trains that would soon take them to their homes and loved ones. Many fast friends were forced to part, but the thought of being again with those who had prayed they might be returned safely filled the boys with such emotion that they could scarcely wait for the train to start. Finally all details were attended to, the men cheering each trainload as it left, and the regiment that had made fame for itself and shared in the glory of the country was thus separated and disbanded.

THE END

APPENDIX A

SUB-SECTOR ARGONNE WEST* RECORD OF EVENTS June 19th, 12 h. to June 20th 12h.

FRANCO-AMERICAN ACTIVITY

GERMAN ACTIVITY

GENERAL CHARACTERISTICS

Calm throughout the day
and night.

INFANTRY

At 12:10 h. a Boche group coming from the direction of 95-89 attacked with hand grenades, V.Bs together with several volleys from the Machine Gun at 95-90 our Ilot 30. After an action of 10 minutes they were driven off by the fire of our F.Ms and V.Bs. This group was first discovered and fired upon by our men. Usual patrols of Liaison and Reconnaissance and an ambushade in the region of 91-91 reported everything quiet during the night.

At 20:10 h. a group coming from the direction of 85-89 toward our Ilot 30 was observed and fired upon by our men occupying the Ilot. After a ten minute fight the Boche were dispersed by the fire of our F.Ms and V.Bs.

ARTILLERY

16:20 h. 45 75s in harrassing fire upon Camp Meurisson.
18:30 h. 26 105s in the direction of St. Louis.
17:55 h. 18 75s in the direction of Four Zabe.
18:50 h. 17 shells in harrassing fire upon Camp Meurisson.

16:30 h. 15 77s in the direction of Nouveau Cottage. Origin, St. Louis.
17:20 h. 5 77s in the direction of La Chalade. Origin St. Louis.
18:25 h. 26 77s upon La Chalade.
23:30 h. 5 77s in same direction. Origin of both volleys St. Louis.
M.W. 13-75 T upon the Faux Ravin. Origin 83-91.

AVIATION

None reported.

No aeroplane reported.
Drachens: From 19:10 h. to 12:30 h. the Drachen Chatel Chehery was in observation.
19:46 h. to 12:50 h. the Drachen Montrebeau was in observation.

LOSSES

Corporal James I. Devine,
I Company 372nd R. I. U. S.,
slightly wounded in the hand
by the fragment of a grenade.
Ft for duty.

MISCELLANEOUS

Reliefs: Company H, 2nd
Battalion, 372nd R. I. U. S. re-
lieved Company F, 2nd Bat-
talion on the east of C. R.
Chalet.

R. A. S.

18:35 h. 7 clouds of black
smoke rising from the Ouv-
rage Venise at 83-93 at one
minute intervals were fol-
lowed by two small red bal-
loons which were immediat-
ly followed by a cloud of
white smoke an an illumin-
ating rocket.

The 20th day of June, 1918.

COLONEL GLENDIE B. YOUNG

372nd R. I. U. S.

Commanding Sub-Sector Argonne-West.

*The Daily Intelligence Report submitted to the Division Commander.

APPENDIX B

FACTS WORTH KNOWING

To illustrate in a more comprehensive manner the importance of the American Negro in the recent war we have secured from a reliable source a few interesting statistics from which the reader may make his own comparisons.

Total number of Negroes registered for Service	2,290,527
Total number examined	458,838
Total number inducted into the Service	367,710
Total number accepted for full Military Service ..	342,277
Total number mobilized (including National Guard and Regular Army Units)	380,000*
Total number sent overseas	200,000*
Total number of Combat Troops	42,000*
Percentage of White Registrants accepted for Service	26.84%
Percentage of Negro Registrants accepted for Service	31.74%
Percentage of White Examinees accepted for Service	70.41%
Percentage of Negro Examinees accepted for Service	74.60%

* Approximate

NEGRO REGULAR ARMY IN THE WORLD WAR

There were four regular army units comprised of Negroes employed in the War, the 9th and 10th Cavalry and the 24th and 25th Infantry Regiments.

NEGRO NATIONAL GUARD UNITS IN THE WORLD WAR

8th Regiment, Illinois.	Co. L, 6th Regiment, Massachusetts.
9th Separate Battalion, Ohio.	1st Separate Company, Connecticut.
15th Regiment, New York.	1st Separate Company, Maryland.
1st Separate Battalion, Washington, D. C.	
Co. G, unattached, Tennessee.	

THE TWO NEGRO DIVISIONS (92ND AND 93RD)

The 92nd Division consisted of the 183rd and 184th Brigades of Infantry and the 167th Brigade of Artillery, composed of the following units:

183rd Brigade: 365th and 366th Infantry. 350th Machine Gun Battalion.

184th Brigade: 367th and 368th Infantry. 351st Machine Gun Battalion.

167th Artillery Brigade: 349th, 350th, and 351st Artillery Regiments.

349th Machine Gun Battalion.

317th Trench Mortar Battalion.

317th Engineers Regiment.

317th Engineers Train.

317 Ammunition Train.

317th Supply Train.

317th Trains, Headquarters and Military Police.

317th Sanitary Train.

325th Field Signal Corps.

The first Battalion of the 367th Infantry was awarded the Croix de Guerre by the French Military authorities in action.

The 93rd Division (Provisional) was never completed as an independent Divisional Unit, and the 185th and 186th Brigades of Infantry, were therefore placed among the crack French Divisions. The 185th Brigade consisted of the 369th and 370th Infantry Regiments, formerly the "15th New York" and the "8th Illinois" respectively. The 186th Brigade consisted of the 371st and 372nd Infantry Regiments; the 371st being a drafted unit from the Southern States, and the 372nd composed of unattached National Guard Units. It is a significant fact that each of the four Infantry Regiments of the 93rd Division were awarded the Croix de Guerre for heroism in action by the French Military Authorities.

PIONEER AND SERVICE UNITS

The largeness of the colored soldiers were employed in Service units on both sides of the ocean. Among some of these units were sixteen Pioneer Regiments of Infantry, a number of Depot Brigades, Service Battalions, Stevedore Regiments, Hospital or Ambulance Corps, Sanitary Trains, Supply Trains, etc.

NEGRO OFFICERS IN UNITED STATES ARMY DURING THE
WORLD WAR

LINE OFFICERS:

COLONELS.

Franklin A. Denison, 370th Infantry; Charles Young, retired.

LIEUTENANT COLONELS.

Ollie B. Davis, 9th Cavalry; Otis B. Duncan, 370th Infantry;
John E. Green, Military Attache, Monrovia, Liberia.

MAJORS.

Thomas B. Campbell; Milton T. Dean, 317th Ammunition
Train; John C. Fulton, 372nd Infantry; William B. Gould, Jr.,
National Guard; Charles L. Hunt, 370th Infantry; William H.
Jackson, 369th Infantry; Thomas H. Moffatt, 371st Infantry;
Adam E. Patterson, Judge Advocate, 92nd Division; Rufus M.
Stokes, 370th Infantry; James E. Walker, 372nd Infantry; Arthur
Williams, 370th Infantry.

CAPTAINS.

Stuart Alexander, 370th Infantry; George M. Allen, 370th
Infantry; James H. Allen, 370th Infantry, John H. Allen, 366th
Infantry; Pusey D. Arnett, 370th Infantry; Henry O. Atwood,
368th Infantry; Herbert Avery, 368th Infantry; Charles H.
Barbour, 350th Machine Gun Bn.; Stewart A. Betts, 370th Infan-
try; Horace W. Bivens; James F. Booker, 349th Machine Gun Bn.;
Virgil M. Boutte, 365th Infantry; Lewis Broadus, Military Police,
92nd Division; R. L. Brunson, 371st Infantry; William L. Bryson,
367th Infantry; Horace G. Burke, 370th Infantry; Alonzo Camp-
bell, 367th Infantry; W. B. Campbell, 317th Amunition Train;
Charles C. Caldwell, 372nd Infantry; Early Carson, 365th Infan-
try; David K. Cherry; Robert B. Chubb, 366th Infantry; Roscoe
Clayton, 349th Machine Gun Bat.; Spriggs B. Coates, 368th
Infantry; Charles C. Cooper, 368th Infantry; H. W. Cox, Head-
quarters Motor Bn., 92nd Division; James W. Crason, 365th
Infantry; William B. Crawford, 370th Infantry; Joseph Dabney,
368th Machine Gun Co.; Clarence C. H. Davis, 372nd Infantry;
William E. Davis, 349th Machine Gun Bn.; Aaron Day, Jr., 317th
Am. Train; Milton T. Dean; Thomas Dent, 368th Infantry; Spahr
H. Dickey, 351st Machine Gun Bn.; Beverly L. Dorsey, 317th
Am. Train; Edward C. Dorsey; Charles J. Echols, 365th Infantry;
Charles Ecton, 365th Infantry; Roscoe Ellis, 366th Infantry;
Sylvester M. Epps, 372nd Infantry; Gurnette E. Ferguson, 365th
Infantry; Charles W. Fillmore, 369th Infantry; Thomas A.
Firmes, 366th Infantry; Archie H. Gillespie, 367th Infantry;

William Gilliam, 366th Infantry; William Glass; Leroy G. Godman, 366th Infantry; William H. Graham, 317th Am. Train; P. S. Grant, 368th Infantry; Miles M. Green, 350th Machine Gun Bn.; Walter Green, 368th Infantry; William R. Green, 372nd Infantry; William W. Green, 365th Infantry; G. B. Greenlea, 317th Am. Train, 92nd Division; Thomas Gundy; Samuel R. Gwynne, 370th Infantry; Charles E. Hadley, 372nd Infantry; George C. Hall, 367th Infantry; James C. Hall, 370th Infantry; James Hall, 370th Infantry; West A. Hamilton, 368th Infantry; Ivan C. Harper, 370th Infantry; Eugene Harris, Military Police, 92nd Division; Byrd McD. Hart, 366th Infantry; Hunter S. Harris, 376th Infantry; Alonzo E. Heard, 366th Inf.; Lee Hicks; C. L. Hill, 370th Infantry; Clinton L. Hill, 370th Infantry; William Hill, 366th Infantry; Carl Helm; George A. Holland, 366th Infantry; James G. Hollingsworth, 365th Infantry; Reuben Horner, 367th Infantry; Henry C. Houston, 366th Infantry; Matthew Jackson, 350th Machine Gun Co.; M. Jackson, 370th Infantry; Dee Jones, 366th Infantry; Hanson Johnson, 365th Infantry; Thomas Johnson, 367th Infantry; T. Edward Jones; James W. Jones, 368th Infantry; Warren F. Jones, John M. Keney, 365th Infantry; Charles G. Kelly, 366th Infantry; F. K. Lessener, 371st Infantry; Frank W. Love, 366th Infantry; Edgar O. Malone, 368th Infantry; Robert Mallory, 372nd Infantry; Vance H. Marchbanks, 368th Infantry; Napoleon B. Marshall, 370th Infantry; Anderson N. May, 366th Infantry; Peter McCall, 367th Infantry; Milton A. McCrimmon, 368th Infantry; Louis R. Mehlinger, 368th Infantry; C. C. Middleton, 349th Field Artillery; Harry W. Mills, 366th Infantry; Joseph L. Morgan, 370th Infantry; Thoma Es. Morris, 367th Infantry; John E. Nail; James S. Nelson, 370th Infantry; Arthur C. Newman, 372nd Infantry; Charles W. Owens, 366th Infantry; Louis H. Patterson, 372nd Infantry; John H. Patton, 370th Infantry; William D. Peek, 370th Infantry; Joseph Phillips, 365th Infantry; Benjamin Pinckney, 370th Infantry; George W. Potts, 371st Infantry; John T. Prout, 370th Infantry; J. Holman Pryor, 372nd Infantry; Howard Queen, 368th Infantry; Rufus Reed; Samuel Reid, 317th Am. Train; Elijah Reynolds, 368th Infantry; W. R. Richey, 371st Infantry; Thomas Rucker, 365th Infantry; John R. Rudd, 372nd Infantry; Cherry Russell, 367th Infantry; John Russel, 367th Infantry; Clifford A. Sandridge, 368th Infantry; Chester Sanders, 370th Infantry; Lorin O. Sanford, 367th Infantry; Walter R. Saunders, 365th Infantry; J. H. Scott, 349th Field Artillery; William F. Scott, 367th Infantry; Samuel Fletcher Sewell, 368th Infantry; Abraham L. Simpson, 366th Infantry; Richard Simmons, 368th Infantry; Daniel Smith, 368th Infantry; James S. Smith, 370th Infantry; Russel Smith, 349th Field Artillery; Edward W. Spear-

man, 367th Infantry; William R. Spencer; Lloyd A. Stafford, 368th Infantry; Moody Staten, 365th Infantry; Robert K. Stephens, 365th Infantry; Benjamin F. Thomas, 365th Infantry; Bob Thomas, 368th Infantry; Joseph Thompson, 317th Am. Train; William W. Thompson, 366th Infantry; Leslie J. Thurman, 349th Machine Gun Bn.; Samuel J. Tipton, 365th Infantry; Joseph E. Trigg, 368th Infantry; Joseph T. Tugg; Austin T. Walden, 365th Infantry; Lewis W. Wallace, 349th Machine Gun Bat.; Devere J. Warren, 370th Infantry; Genoa S. Washington, 365th Infantry; Emmett White, 366th Infantry; J. C. Whittaker, 317th Am. Train; Arthur William, 370th Infantry; George W. Winston, 366th Infantry; John M. Williams; Richard A. Williams, 368th Infantry; Walter B. Williams, 367th Infantry; William W. Williams, 365th Infantry; William H. Williams; Edward York, 367th Infantry.

FIRST LIEUTENANTS

David W. Anthony, 367th Infantry; Charles J. Adams, 366th Infantry; Robert C. Allen, 366th Infantry; Henry Ammons, 367th Infantry; Cleve Abbott, 366th Infantry; A. P. Alberga, 367th Infantry; L. V. Alexis, 366th Infantry; Edward I. Alexander, 351st Infantry; James C. Arnold, 366th Infantry; George J. Austin, 365th Infantry; R. E. Banks, 368th Infantry; Clarence C. Bailey, 368th Infantry; Charles J. Barclay, 366th Infantry; Claudius Ballard, 370th Infantry; Walter R. Barnes, 369th Infantry; William I. Barns, 368th Infantry; S. D. Barrows, 417th Ammunition Train; Frank Bass, 370th Infantry; T. J. Batey, 367th Infantry; W. H. Benson, 366th Infantry; Charles J. Blackwood, 365th Infantry; H. W. Black, 365th Infantry; William D. Bly, 365th Infantry; Isalah Blocker, 366th Infantry; Albert L. Booker, 366th Infantry; Benjamin D. Boyd, 372nd Infantry; E. D. Bradstreet, 367th Infantry; Horace Brannon, 368th Infantry; Clyde R. Brannon, 368th Infantry; A. S. Brock, Denton J. Brooks, 366th Infantry; Arthur D. Brown, 350th Field Artillery; O. C. Brown, 351st Machine Gun Bn.; Emmett Brown, 317th Ammunition Train; R. T. Brown, 367th Infantry; William H. Brown, Jr., 365th Infantry; Howard R. M. Brown; Sylvanus Brown, 350th Machine Gun Bn.; Ulysses R. Brown, 372nd Infantry; Harvey L. Brown; Michael Brownings, 370th Infantry; Osceola Browning, 370th Infantry; O. O. Browning, 370th Infantry; Charles C. Bruen, 365th Infantry; James A. Bryant, Horace G. Burke, 370th Infantry; John P. Burgess, 365th Infantry, Dace H. Burns, 365th Infantry; William T. Burns, 366th Infantry; John W. Bundrant, Herman L. Butler, 366th Infantry; Homer C. Butler, 351st Machine Gun Bn.; Napoleon L. Byrd, 368th Infantry; Walter W. Cagle, 350th Machine Gun Bn.; Alvin H. Cameron, Robert L. Cambell, 368th Infantry; William B. Campbell; Guy W. Canady,

366th Infantry; Amos A. Carter, 368th Infantry; John C. Carter, 368th Infantry; Harry W. Cax, Frank R. Chisholm, 366th Infantry; H. C. Chapman, 349th Field Artillery; Erwell W. Clark, Adjut. Gen.'s Dept., 92nd Div.; William H. Clark, 366th Inf., Supply Co.; Joshua W. Clifford, 367th Infantry; Frank Colman, 368th Infantry; Leonard O. Colston, 350th Machine Gun Bn.; Jones Coltrane, 366th Infantry; John Combs, 317th Ammunition Train; Barton W. Conrad, 367th Infantry; Floyd F. Cook, 365th Infantry; George P. Cooper, Chesley E. Corbett, 317th Ammunition Train; Bernard C. Cox, 367th Infantry; Horace Robert Crawford, 368th Infantry; Otha Curry, 366th Infantry; Clarence B. Curley, 368th Infantry; Merrill H. Curtis, Horace R. Crawford, 368th Infantry; Judge Cross, 368th Infantry; Edward L. Dabney, 367th Infantry; Victor R. Daly, 366th Infantry; Eugene A. Dandridge, 368th Infantry; Eugene L. C. Davidson, 367th Infantry; Henry C. Davis, 366th Infantry; Irby D. Davis, 365th Infantry, Charles C. Dawson, 365th Infantry; William Dawson, 365th Infantry; R. F. Dean, 317th Ammunition Train; Francis M. Dent, 368th Infantry; Thomas M. Dent, Jr.; Elder W. Diggs, 363 Infantry; W. H. Dinkins, 366th Infantry; Binga Desmond, 370th Infantry; Harris N. Dorsey; Vest Douglas, 351st Machine Gun Bn.; Edward Duger, 367th Infantry; Jackson E. Dunn, Frank L. Drye, 365th Infantry; James E. Dungill, 372nd Infantry; W. H. Dyer; George E. Edwards, 349th Machine Gun Bn.; Howard C. Gilbert, 367th Infantry; George Ellis, 372nd Infantry; Harry C. Ellis, 366th Infantry; James Reese Europe, 369th Infantry; Alexander E. Evans, 350th Machine Gun Bn.; Percival L. Everette, 366th Infantry; W. H. Evans, 317th Ammunition Train; John R. Fairley, 365th Infantry; Clifford L. Farrer, 372nd Infantry; Leonard J. Faulkner, 368th Infantry; William H. Fearance, 349th Machine Gun Bn.; Charles H. Fearing, 365th Infantry; Alonza G. Ferguson, 350th Machine Gun Bn.; Dillard J. Firse, 365th Infantry; Octavius Fisher; Benjamin F. Ford, 365th Infantry; Arthur Freeman, 317th Train; Gordon French, 370th Infantry; Edward S., 365th Infantry; Elsworth Gamble, 365th Infantry; Norman Garrett, 370th Infantry; William L. Gee, 351st Machine Gun Bn.; Claybourne George, 368th Infantry; Howard C. Gilbert, 367th Infantry; Walter A. Giles, 367th Infantry; Floyd Gilmer, Frank M. Goodner, Elyah H. Goodwin, 365th Infantry; James A. Gordon; Samuel Gordon, 370th Infantry; Herbert R. Gould; James E. Gould, 367th Infantry; Francis H. Gow, 365th Infantry; Dorsey B. Grandberry, 350th Machine Gun Bn.; Towson S. Grasty; Thornton H. Gray, 368th Infantry; Jesse J. Green, 367th Infantry; Thomas E. Green, 365th Infantry; George B. Greenlee, 367th Infantry; T. M. Gregory; George W. Hamilton, Jr.; G. H. Hamilton, 372nd Infantry; West A. Hamilton, 372nd Infantry; Clarence B. Hall, 349th Field Artillery; Grover C. Harden, 368th Infantry;

Clarence W. Harding, 366th Infantry; Clay Harper, 317th Army Training; Tilman H. Harpole; David W. Harris, Jr., 365th Infantry; Edward H. Harris, 368th Infantry; B. W. Harris, 365th Infantry; Albert H. Hatchett; Merriam C. Hayson, 368th Infantry; Almando Henderson, 367th Infantry; Douglas Henderson, Jr.; Robert H. Herrick; J. S. Henry, 368th Infantry; Thomas J. Henry, 336th Infantry; Vodrey Henry, M. C. D.; Jerome L. Herbert; Jesse Heslip, 368th Infantry; Walter Hill, 366th Infantry; Clarence O. Hilton, 349th Field Artillery; Clement N. Hinton, 370th Infantry; Lowell B. Hodges; O. W. Hodge; Horatio B. Holder, 366th Infantry; Joseph J. Holmes, 350th Machine Gun Battalion; Robert P. Hurd, 370th Infantry; Walter L. Hutchinson, 366th Infantry; Charles H. Houston, 351st Artillery; Cecil A. Howard; Charles P. Howard, 366th Infantry; William J. Howard, 351st Field Artillery; Arthur B. Hubbard, 349th Machine Gun Battalion; Jefferson E. Hudgins, 365th Infantry; Samuel M. Huffman; Samuel A. Hull; John R. Hunt, 368th Infantry; Benjamin H. Hunton, 370th Infantry; Robert P. Hurd, 370th Infantry; Frederick A. Hurt; Walter L. Hutcherson, 366th Infantry; Beecher A. Jackson, 350th Machine Gun Battalion; George W. Jackson, 365th Infantry; Joseph T. Jackson, 365th Infantry; Landon Jackson, 365th Infantry; Raymond A. Jackson, 372nd Infantry; Joshua James, 370th Infantry; Donaldson C. Jefferson, 167th Field Artillery; William H. Jenkins, 366th Infantry; Harry W. Jones, 370th Infantry; Benjamin R. Johnson; Campbell C. Johnson; Everett W. Johnson, 349th Field Artillery; Merle O. Johnson, 365th Infantry; R. R. Johnson; Virginus D. Johnson, 367th Infantry; Irving R. Johnson, 367th Infantry; William T. Johnson, 366th Infantry; Clifford W. Jones, 366th Infantry; Paul W. Jones, 368th Infantry; Percy I. Jones, 351st Machine Gun Bat.; William Jones, 366th Infantry; Elliott H. Kelly, 265th Infantry; William Kernts, 368th Infantry; Othor E. Kerr, 367th Infantry; Jesse L. Kimbrough, 365th Infantry; Orestus Kincade, 366th Infantry; Cornelius A. King, 366th Infantry; Moses King; Lawrence E. Knight, 368th Infantry; Edward C. Knox, 349th Machine Gun Battalion; Azzie B. Koger, 368th Infantry; Linwood G. Koger, 368th Infantry; George Lacy, 370th Infantry; Charles E. Lane, 367th Infantry; David A. Lane, 367th Infantry; Benton R. Latimer, 367th Infantry; Ernest W. Latson; Paige I. Lancaster, 367th Infantry; William L. Lee; Oscar G. Lawless, 350th Machine Gun Battalion; Wilfred W. Lawson, 365th Infantry; Jesse L. Leach; John E. Leonard, 368th Infantry; Garrett M. Lewis, 365th Infantry; Henry O. Lewis, 367th Infantry; John Q. Lindsey, 366th Infantry; Aldon L. Logan; Howard H. Long, 368th Infantry; Victor Long, 366th Infantry; James J. Lomack, 368th Infantry; George B. Love; John W. Love; Walter Love, 365th Infantry; Walter Lowe; 365th Infantry; Walter Lyons, 365th

Infantry; Amos B. Madison, 366th Infantry; Earl W. Mann; James F. Martin; Joseph H. Martin, 368th Infantry; Leon F. Marsh, 368th Infantry; Cuoy Martin, 366th Infantry; Eric P. Mason, 351st Machine Gun Br.; Denis McGee Matthews, 350th Machine Gun Br.; Walter M. Mazyck, 368th Infantry; Harry Mc Clain, 365th Infantry; Samuel McGowan, 370th Infantry; Osceola Mc Kaine, 367th Infantry; James E. McKey; Carey McLane; Archibald McLee; Leonard L. Mc Leod, 367th Infantry; Albert McReynolds, 368th Infantry; Marshall Meadows; Louis R. Middleton, 368th Infantry; Benjamin H. Mills, 367th Infantry; Warren N. Mims, 351st Machine Gun Bt.; C. E. Minkins Jr., 350th Machine Gun Bt.; John H. Mitcherson; I. E. Moore, 366th Infantry; John M. Moore; Cleveland Morris; Elias A. Morris, 366th Infantry; Richard N. Morris, 317 Train; Henry Morrow, 349th Field Artillery; Abraham Morse, 367th Infantry; Benjamin H. Mosby, 349th Machine Gun Bt.; Benedict Mosely, 365th Machine Gun Bt.; George Murphy, 370th Infantry; Homer G. Neely, 351st Machine Gun Bt.; William F. Nelson, 366th Infantry; James P. Noblis, 367th Infantry; Allen O. Newman; R. M. Norris; Grafton S. Norman; William W. Oxley, 367th Infantry; Clemmis C. Parks; Cornelius G. Parks, 350th Infantry; Charles S. Parker, 366th Infantry; Humphrey C. Patton, 350th Field Artillery; Clarence H. Paige; Clarence H. Payne, 365th Infantry; Marion R. Perry, 317th Am. Train; Robert R. Penn, 367th Infantry; Harris J. Pinkett, 366th Infantry; Charles E. Pinkins, 350th Machine Gun Bt.; James C. Pinkston, 368th Infantry; Percival R. Piper, 367th Infantry; Anderson F. Pitts, 350th Machine Gun Bt.; Fisher Pride; James C. Powell, 368th Infantry; William J. Powell, 365th Infantry; J. F. Pritchard, 365th Infantry; Henry H. Proctor, 366th Infantry; John H. Purnell; Harold L. Quivers, 368th Infantry; Agusta Ramirez; Fred D. Ramsey, 351st Machine Gun Bt.; Hazel L. Raine, 367th Infantry; Reid, 370th Infantry; Marion C. Rhoten, Headquarters Troop 922nd ; Charles G. Reed, 365th Infantry; John F. Rice, 350th Machine Gun Bt.; Harry D. Richardson, 368th Infantry; Leonard H. Richardson, 350th Machine Gun Bt.; Frances E. Rivers, 351st Machine Gun Bt.; Charles Roberts; George C. Roberts, 366th Infantry; Homer B. Roberts, 325th Field Signal Battalion; Frank Robinson, 370th Infantry; George C. Robinson, 366th Infantry; Peter L. Robinson, 368th Infantry; William W. Robinson, 367th Infantry; Julian P. Rodgers 366th Infantry; John W. Rowe, 365th Infantry; Benjamin F. Rudd, 372nd Infantry; Edward P. Rudd, 367th Infantry; Harold L. Rupert, 350th Field Artillery; Mallalien Rush, 365th Infantry; James E. Sanford, 372nd Infantry; George S. Schuyler, 368th Infantry; Edgar Scott, 350th Field Artillery; James E. Scott, 367th Infantry; Joseph H. Scott; George F. Seamon, 368th Infantry; Shermont Sewell, 368th Infantry; Charles A. Shaw,

367th Infantry; Robert A. J. Shaw; 370th Infantry; Harry W. Shelton; 370th Infantry; Robert T. Shobe; 349th Machine Gun Bat.; Harold Short; 366th Infantry; John H. Simms, Jr.; Ogeon N. Simmons; 368th Infantry; William E. Simmons; 368th Infantry; Lawrence Simpson; 365th Infantry; William R. Smalls; Doyle L. Smith; O. S. Smith; 325th Field Signal Bat.; Farel M. Smith; 367th Infantry; Oscar H. Smith; 368th Infantry; Pitman E. Smith; 317th Engineers; Russel Smith; Walter E. Smith; 365th Infantry; Percy H. Steele; 368th Infantry; Waddell C. Steele; Grant Stewart; 349th Field Artillery; Leon F. Stewart; 365th Infantry; Thomas A. Stewart; 365th Infantry; William A. Stith; 366th Infantry; James M. Stockett; 367th Infantry; E. Y. Strawn; 366th Infantry; Park Tanell; 370th Infantry; Pearl E. Taylor; Alfred J. Thomas; 368th Infantry; Jack A. Thomas; 368th Infantry; Charles M. Thompson; Howard R. Thompson; Pierce McM. Thompson; 366th Infantry; Richard C. Thompson; Toliver T. Thompson; Adj. Gen.'s Dept.; 92nd Division; William H. Thompson; James W. Thornton; 367th Infantry; Anderson Trapp; 366th Infantry; Charles A. Tribett; Victor Tulare, Jr.; 366th Infantry; W. J. Turnbow; Allen Turner; 349th Field Artillery; Edward Turner; 366th Inf.; O. W. Turpin; 365th Infantry; George L. Vaughn; H. N. Vergin; Allen Walker; 372nd Infantry; George L. Wade; 351st Field Artillery; John P. Walker; Thomas H. Walters; 366th Infantry; W. J. Warfield; 370th Infantry; Bellver E. Watkins; 349th Machine Gun Battalion; Louis L. Watson; Joseph Ward; 370th Infantry; Robert L. Ward; 370th Infantry; J. N. Waring; 367th Infantry; William H. Wear; 367th Infantry; Walter T. Webb; 367th Infantry; Leo E. Welker; 366th Infantry; Everett B. Williams; 367th Infantry; Gus Williams; 351st Machine Gun Battalion; James B. Williams; 368th Infantry; Robert G. Williams; 367th Infantry; Elmore S. Willis; 366th Infantry; Harry E. Wilson; 366th Infantry; John E. Wilson; 317th Am. Train; Meredith B. Willy; 317th Am. Train; Christopher C. Wisnabish; 366th Infantry; Charles Young; 366th Infantry; Charles G. Young; 368th Infantry.

SECOND LIEUTENANTS

Eward G. Abner; S. S. Abrams; 368th Infantry; Thomas J. Abraham; 366th Infantry; Harrison Adams; John H. Albert; 367th Field Artillery; Ira L. Aldridge; 351st Machine Gun Battalion; Fritz W. Alexander; 368th Infantry; Clarence W. Allen; 366th Infantry; Harry M. Allen; 370th Infantry; Herbert Allen; Richard S. Allen; E. L. Anderson; 368th Infantry; Allen Atkins; Russel C. Atkins; 367th Infantry; Charles H. Austin; 361st Machine Gun Battalion; William Ayers; Ramond H. Ayler; 367th Field Artillery; Robert S. Bampfield; 366th Infantry; Julian G. Banks; 365th Infantry; G. S. Barnea; 349th Machine Gun Battat

ion; Morris Bass; Winfred Bazie; Arthur Beatty; Ether Beattie, 317 Am. Train; Leslie Alex Beck; Henry E. Bell, 167th Field Artillery; Hery Clay Bennett; Lewis A. Berkly, 372nd Infantry; Louis Berry; Benjamin Bettis, 368th Infantry; Alston G. Blaine, 370th Infantry; Franklin John Bobbo; Henry H. Boger; William R. Bowie, 349th Field Artillery; W. Bowman, 367th Infantry; Roscoe Attucks Bowser; Cartis Adin Brooks; William M. Brooks Clarence E. Brown, 372nd Infantry; Edward Brown Geo. E. Brown, 367th Infantry; Geo. A. Brown, 366th Inf.; John H. Brown 366th Infantry; J. Tim Brymn, 349th Field Artillery; Oscar Brown, 367th Infantry; Pearl Brown; Samuel C. Brown, 368th Inf.; William Brown, 366th Inf.; Osceola Browning, 370th Inf.; Julius C. Bryant, 349th F. Art.; Thomas J. Bullock, 369th Infantry; L. F. Buford, 366th Inf.; Nathaniel Burrel, Jr., 349th Field Artillery; J. E. Buford, 368th Inf.; John M. Burrell; William H. Burrell, 368th Inf.; Felix Buggs, 365th Inf.; Clarence Bush; Allen T. Bushy, 167th Field Artillery; John B. Cade, 366th Infantry; Charles A. Caldwell, 368th Infantry; Andrew B. Callahan, 366th Infantry; Lafayette Campbell; Orville Campbell, 368th Infantry; Adolphus F. Capps; Lovelace B. Capehard, 365th Infantry; Curtis W. Carpenter, 368th Infantry; Wallace Webb Carney; Wilson Cary, 317th Am. Train; Albert A. Cassell, 167th Field Artillery; Arthur Chambliss; Robert Chavis, 370th Infantry; Henry P. Cheatham, 370th Infantry; Robert W. Cheers, 368th Infantry; Chester Dabo; Walter Chinn; Clarence Clark; Frank C. Clark, 368th Infantry; John Clark; Lane C. Cleaves, 368th Infantry; Edwin Earl Clemens, 167th Field Artillery; Frederick Clinton; Earnest Cobington; Frederick Coffey; William Collier, 367th Infantry; Henry C. Collins, 167th Field Artillery; William N. Colson, 367th Infantry; Elmer A. Congo, 167th Field Artillery; W. J. Conway, 368th Infantry; Burtram H. Conway, 367th Infantry; Howard Cooley, 366th Infantry; Thomas Crawford; Royal Crump; Chester H. Crumpler, 365th Infantry; Carpenter W. Curtis, 368th Infantry; William J. Curtis, 167th Artillery; Victor Daly; James S. Davis, 167th Field Artillery; Quinton De. Jesus; Odust Delaney; Oswald Desverney; G. T. Dickson, 365th Machine Gun Battalion; J. B. Dickson, 365th Infantry; Elmer W. Diggs, 368th Infantry; Seaborn Douglas, 367th Infantry; J. L. Doss, 325th Field Signal; Stephen Douglas; Maunice Drummond; Henry Earl Duke; H. E. Dunn, 369th Machine Gun Bat.; Lewis B. Duner; William H. Dunkins; Benjamin F. Dunning; Leonard Edwards; James L. Elliott, 366th Infantry; Charles J. Ellis, 366th Infantry; Leslie H. Engram; Norwood C. Fairfax, 368th Infantry; Robert W. Fearing, 367th Infantry; Howard W. Fields; Jose Figueras; Adam Fisher, 366th Infantry; James E. Fladger, 349th Machine Gun Battalion; C. C. Ford, 368th Infantry; Edward W. Ford; John A. Ford; Albon Foster; Frank L. Francis, 366th

Infantry; Henry O. Franklin, 367th Infantry; Earnest C. Frasier; John W. Freeman, 366th Infantry; Sewell C. Freeman; E. P. Frierson, 366th Infantry; Tacitus E. Gaillard, 351st Machine Gun Battalion; George L. Gains, 365th Infantry; James H. L. Gains, 366th Infantry; Lucian P. Garrett, 366th Infantry; Warmoth T. Gibbs, 366th Infantry; Oscare Gilchrist; Luther Gillman; Jesse J. Gleeden, 365th Infantry; Albert Sidney Glenn; William M. Godette, 167th Field Artillery; Lemonette V. Gonzales, 311th Machine Gun Battalion; Stephen Good; Edward L. Goodlett; John Cardoza Goode, 167th Field Artillery; Nathan O. Goodloe, 368th Machine Gun Bat.; E. Gordon, 367th Infantry; William T. Gray, 368th Infantry; Jesse H. Graham, 317th Engineers; L. B. Granger, 349th Field Artillery; Lee Grant; James Green, 366th Infantry; Lewis Green; Nello B. Greenlee, 367th Infantry; F. W. Green, 366th Infantry; Lester C. Grenyer, 167th Field Artillery; Jefferson E. Grigsby; Ulysses Grimes; Clarence A. Guillott, Headquarters Dept. 92nd Division; Herbert H. Guppy, 367th Inf.; Leonidas H. Hall, Jr.; William Hall; Clifton S. Hardy, 365th Infantry; Rodney D. Harde way, 367th Infantry; Ted O. Harper, 365th Infantry; Edward Harris; John Harris; Lee Harris, 167th Field Artillery; Sylvanus H. Hart, 167th Artillery; Lawrence Hawkins, 368th Infantry; Charles M. Hayes, 351st Machine Gun Bat.; Harry Leonard Havens; W. G. Herbert, 325th Field Signal Bat.; Robert Hernandez, 367th Infantry; Allen L. Hewlett; Lee J. Hicks, 317th Am. Train; Victor L. Hicks, 349th Machine Gun Bat.; L. Henderson, 367th Infantry; L. R. Henderson, 368th Infantry; Daniel G. Hill, Jr., 368th Infantry; C. O. Hilton, 349th Field Artillery; James Leroy Hogan; William Hogue; Clarence Holland; Clay Holland; George C. Hollomand, 351st Machine Gun Bat.; Fred Douglas Hold; Chauncey Hooper; Wayne L. Hopkins; James L. Horace, 365th Infantry; Errol Stanley Horne; Charles S. Hough, 367th Infantry; John Garnett Houser; W. O. Houston, 317th Am. Train; Charles H. Houston, 167th Field Artillery; Charles K. Howard, 366th Infantry; Irving Howe; William H. Hubert, 367th Infantry; C. E. Hunger, 317th Am. Train; Bush A. Hunter, 351st Machine Gun Bat.; William Hurd; Samuel B. Hutchinson, Jr., 367th Infantry; Clarence K. Howard; James E. Ivey, 366th Infantry; Louis Ivey, 367th Infantry; Arthur Jackson; Edwin Curtis Jackson; Albra Jackson, 372nd Infantry; Maxey A. Jackson, 350th Infantry; Rufus Jackson, 370th Infantry; Joyce G. Jacobs, 365th Infantry; Maitaland Jacobs, 167th Field Artillery; Luther B. Jackson, 36th Infantry; Wesley H. Jamison, 351st Machine Gun Bat.; Charles Jefferson, 366th Infantry; Roy Jefferson; D. C. Jefferson, 351st Field Artillery; L. T. Jenkins, 367th Infantry; Frank Jenkins; Alvin Hamilton Jones Arthur Jones, 370th Infantry; Charles A. Jones, 349th Machine Gun Bat.; Edward D. Jones, 367th Machine Gun Bat.; James A.

Jones; James O. Jones, 365th Infantry; James Riley Jones; Joseph Robinson Jones, 167th Field Artillery; Andrew G. Johnson, 365th Infantry; Percy L. Jones; Vivian L. Jones, 366th Infantry; Earnest C. Johnson; George L. Johnson, 350th Field Artillery; Hillery W. Johnson, 368th Infantry; Robert E. Johnson 368th Infantry; Joseph L. Johnson; William N. Johnson, 366th Infantry; William N. Johnson, 366th Infantry; C. W. Joyce, 367th Infantry; Albert M. Jordan, 370th Infantry; Henry A. Kean, 167th Field Artillery; Lloyd Keyser; Cornelius A. King, 372nd Infantry John W. Knox; Frank L. Lane, 349th Machine Gun Battalion; Earnest Lawson, 167th Field Artillery; Emery Lawson; Samuel Lawson; Harry Layne; Benote Lee, 370th Inf.; George E. Lee, 365th Infantry; George W. Lee, 368th Infantry; Lawrence A. Lee, 367th Infantry; Richard Hanna Lewis, 167th Field Artillery; Homer Lewis, 365th Infantry; Roscoe Conkling Lewis; Everette B. Liggins, 367th Infantry; Victor C. Lightfoot, 365th Infantry; Melvin Potter Linder; Gus Lindsey; Redden L. Linton, 365th Infantry; Charles C. Luck, Jr.; Glanda W. Locust, 317th Am. Tr.; Lonnie W. Lott, 349th Machine Gun Bn.; William Louis; Charles H. Love, 365th Infantry; Eugene Lucas; Harry J. Mack, 349th Field Artillery; Edgar F. Malone; Frederick DeWitt Malone, 167th Field Artillery; Alfred E. Marshall; Cyrus W. Marshall; 368th Infantry; M. H. Marshal, 349th Field Artillery; W. H. Marshal; H. L. Martin, 365th Infantry; Gut Matthews, 365th Infantry; Joseph E. Matthews, 365th Infantry; Julius Matthews; Robert A. McEven, 366th Infantry; Hubert M. Meman; Mortimer M. Meusheel, 167th Field Artillery; Elmer J. Myers, 370th Infantry; Franklin A. McFarland, 370th Infantry; Stanley Miles; Reginald Miller, 367th Infantry; J. E. Mitcham, 349th Field Artillery; Albion Mitchell; M. P. Company; Pinkney Mitchell; Elmer Morris; James B. Morris, 366th Infantry; Ottaway Morris; Hubert M. Moman, 366th Infantry; Gavaie W. Moore, 167th Field Artillery; Loring B. Moore; James B. Morris, 366th Infantry; Stephen E. Moses, 167th Field Artillery; Wayman Moss, 370th Infantry; Scott Mouer; Albert C. Murdaugh; Thomas J. Narcisse; Earl H. Nash, 365th Infantry; William D. Nabors, 366th Infantry; Gurney E. Nelson; William Nichols, 372nd Infantry; James A. Norris, 167th Field Artillery; Stanley B. Norvell, 370th Infantry; Ambrose B. Nutt, 367th Infantry; Benjamin L. Ousley, 365th Infantry; Charles G. Owens, 367th Infantry; Lawrence Oxley, Thomas A. Painter, 370th Infantry; Wilson E. Pannell; Walter E. Parker, 349th Field Artillery; Philip Harvey Patterson, 167th Field Artillery; Aiken A. Payse, 167th Field Artillery; Charles Payne; J. R. Penn, 368th Infantry; William Peoples; B. L. Pecock, 317th Sanitary Tr.; Marion R. Perry; Raymond Perry, 167th Field Artillery; Hanson A. Person, 365th Inf.; Harry B. Peters, 365th Infantry; James H. Payton; William C. Phillips, 370th Infantry;

David A. Pierce; Timothy Pleasant; Alvin Loon Poole; Roy J. Polk, 167th Field Artillery; Aiken A. Pope, 351st Field Artillery; Fred D. Porter; Herman W. Porter, 367th Infantry; Wade H. Powell, 366th Infantry; Benjamin F. Preston; William Lawrence Powell, 167th Field Artillery; Gloucester A. Price; Lawson Price, 370th Infantry; T. W. Primus, 351st Field Artillery; William Proctor; Earle Pugsley; Theodore W. Pumers, 167th Field Artillery; Richard R. Queen, 365th Infantry; Washington H. Racks, 365th Infantry; Eugene Ragland, 370th Infantry; Clarence Ragsdale; John Enoch Raiford, 368th Infantry; William Beale Ramsey; Lionel Randle; James O. Redmon, 366th Infantry; Lincoln Reed; William Reese, 368th Infantry; Lightfoot H. Reese, 365th Infantry; Andrew T. Reed, 368th Infantry; Lincoln D. Reid, 370th Infantry; Robert S. Reid, 365th Infantry; Adolph Reys, 368th Infantry; Eugene Rhodes; Maceo A. Richmond, 366th Infantry; D. C. Richardson, 368th Infantry; John Jacob Riley; William N. Rivers, 167th Field Artillery; Clyde Roberts, 365th Inf.; Fred Roberts, 372nd Infantry; Charles W. Robinson, 368th Infantry; D. L. T. Robinson, 372nd Infantry; Frank Robinson; Hilyard Robinson, 349th Field Artillery; Hilliaret R. Robinson, 167th Field Artillery; John C. Robinson, 167th Field Artillery; Roscoe Gresham Robinson, 167th Field Artillery; Vincent Bowditch Robinson, 167th Field Artillery; Walter L. Robinson, Edward Robertson; E. E. Rogers, 365th Infantry; Emanuel Tomero; Fred D. Roseburo, 365th Infantry; Alphonzo Ross; R. E. Roper, 368th Infantry; Henry C. Ross, 372nd Infantry; John M. Ross, 167th Field Artillery; Durell Royster; Lewis H. Russel, 367th Infantry; William P. Russel, 366th Infantry; George Rutherford; Earl Ryder, 365th Infantry; John C. Saunders; Joseph B. Saunders, 366th Infantry; Elliott D. Saunders, 366th Infantry; Walter L. Savoy, 368th Infantry; Elmer P. Sawyer, 367th Infantry; C. C. Scott, 365th Infantry; James E. Scott, 368th Infantry; Juranta H. Scott, 349th Field Artillery; W. W. Scott, 368th Infantry; D. D. Scruggs, 365th Infantry; Baxter S. Scruggs, 167th Field Artillery; A. W. Sells, 365th Infantry; Watt Tyler Seldon; Carlos Sowards; H. W. Shephard, 317th Am. Tr.; Walter M. Sherwood, 372nd Infantry; Warren B. Shelton; Santurino Sierra; Austin Sims, 366th Infantry; Noble Sissle, 370th Infantry; Frederick Slade; Hayes Sloan; Albert E. Smith, 167th Field Artillery; Enos B. Smith, 368th Infantry; Charles S. Smith Jr., 325th Field Signal Bn.; Earl A. Smith, 366th Infantry; D. L. Smith, 366th Infantry; Frederick Smith, 366th Infantry; Harold E. Smith, 154th Depot Brigade; Joseph W. Smith, 365th Infantry; N. C. Smythe, 366th Infantry; Orville R. Smith, 370th Infantry; Levi E. Southe, 365th Infantry; Leonard Taylor Speel; Houston Stacker; Edward Stapler; C. O. Stedman, 367th Infantry; J. S. Stevens, 366th Infantry; William Wyatt Stewart, 167th Field

Artillery; Walter R. St Clair; John B. St Clair, 366th Infantry; Wilbur F. Stonestreet, 349th Machine Gun Bn.; Wallace E. Stokes, 372nd Infantry; Thomas Evans Stubbs; Allen Tarrant, 367th Infantry; Daniel T. Taylor, 350th Machine Gun Bn.; E. A. Taylor, 366th Infantry; Jones W. Taylor, 367th Infantry; George Taylor; James H. Taylor, 365th Infantry; Hannibal B. Taylor, 350th Machine Gun Bn.; J. A. B. Taylor, 365th Infantry; William Horace Taylor; William Lee Taylor; William Temple; E. E. Thompson, 367th Infantry; Edward Thompson; Vincent B. Thomas, 368th Infantry; Burrell Tillman, 154th Depot Brigade; Roy B. Tisdell, 370th Infantry; Thomas Tisdell, 370th Infantry; George Robertson Towley; Frederick H. Townsend, 367th Infantry; Charles A. Tribbett; William Trueitt; T. B. Turner, 368th Infantry; Archibald R. Tuck; J. A. Turner, 366th Infantry; Samuel Turner, 350th Machine Gun Bn.; Charles U. Turpin, 365th Infantry; Joseph Underwood; Shadrack W. Upshaw, 317th Am. Tr.; Ferdinand Upshaw; Carlos C. Valle; Richard H. Walker, 325th Field Artillery; Thomas D. Walker, 372nd Infantry; Leo E. Walker, 366th Infantry; Alstyne M. Watson, 350th Machine Gun Bn.; Baxter W. Watson, 367th Infantry; H. R. Weaver, 367th Infantry; Levi F. Welch, 367th Infantry; Curtis Elroy Wesley; Loyd G. Wheeler, 370th Infantry; M. P. Whittaker, 368th Infantry; Journee W. White, 367th Infantry; Lorenzo C. White, 367th Infantry; Paul Wigington; Horace G. Wilder; Hiram Wildy; Albert William, 370th Infantry; Arthur R. William Hqdr. Troop, 92nd Div.; A. E. Williams, Adjutant Dpt., 92nd Div.; Govgalas O. William, 167th Field Artillery; J. D. William, 368th Infantry; James H. Williams, 154th Depot Brigade; G. T. A. Williams, 365th Infantry; John William, 350th Machine Gun Bn.; Livingston J. William; Major Williams, 366th Infantry; Oscar H. Williams, 367th Infantry; Seymore E. Williams, 350th Machine Gun Bn.; V. L. Williams, 367th Infantry; Walter Williams, 372nd Infantry; W. H. F. Williams, 368th Infantry; John Boykin Willis; Butler R. Wilson; Harvey W. Wilson, 372nd Infantry; William H. Wilson, 365th Infantry; George M. Windsor, 367th Infantry; Hugh H. Wimbish, 368th Infantry; Redden Winton; Rolland F. Winsted, 365th Infantry; J. E. Winkey, 368th Infantry; Austin Woodde; Earnest Wood, 365th Infantry; Benjamin F. Wright, 367th Infantry; Cecil Wright, 365th Infantry; Elbert S. Wright, M. P. Co.; John Thomas Wright, 368th Infantry; Joseph E. Wyllie, 368th Infantry; John Wynn, 317th Am. Tr.; William H. York, 368th Infantry; William Young, 368th Infantry.

LIEUTENANTS WHOSE RANK WAS NOT GIVEN

Herbert L. Allison; Clarence H. Bouchane, 370th Infantry; Carter N. Brown; Frank Corbin; Meridith Ferguson; U. Gains; Richard Jones; Eugene Pargny King; Leaman ———; S. E.

Leaselle; Gobert E. McBeth; Oliver W. Madden; Herman Martin William E. Mattison, 371st Infantry; McShan, John B. Miles, 371st Infantry; Clifford L. Miller; Samuel Ransom, 370th Infantry; D. E. Simelton, 372nd Infantry; Eugene Smith, 371st Infantry John Thompson, 371st Infantry; W. M. Thompson, Jr., 371st Infantry; James C. Todd, 371st Infantry; Herdon White, Joseph White, 370th Infantry; Hugo Williams, 370th Infantry; Prince E. Williams, 154th Depot Brigade; Butler; Butler R. Wilson, 325th Signal Bn.; George Windsore, 367th Infantry; Straugh H. Wylie, 154th Depot Brigade.

MEDICAL CORPS

SURGEONS—CAPTAINS

F. G. Boston; J. C. Bradfield; E. J. Cobb; Daniel W. Crawford, 325th Signal Bn.; W. T. Darnell, 317th Am. Tr.; Julian Dawson; Charles S. Fisher, 349th Field Artillery; Charles H. Garvin, 367th Infantry; Charles O. Hadley; S. B. Hickman; C. S. Janifer; James A. Kenedy, 366th Infantry; Jesse L. Leach; Edwin H. Lee; U. G. B. Martin; C. C. Middleton; T. E. Miller; A. B. McKenzie; F. E. Pearl; Albert Ridgely; F. A. Stokes; J. Q. Taylor, 366th Infantry; William Wallace; H. H. Walker; A. H. Willson; Lewis T. Wright; Rufus Vass.

SURGEONS—FIRST LIEUTENANTS

William R. Arthur; E. R. Baily; Edward W. Bates, 368th Inf.; D. O. Baldwin; William J. H. Booker; A. J. Booker; A. C. Bright; H. S. Bramon; Vanderbilt Brown; A. D. Brown; H. L. Brown; R. T. Brown; W. H. Bryant, 366th Infantry; C. C. Buford; A. W. Carley; Clarence Carlye; W. H. Calhoun; T. A. Combie; L. A. Corninsh; A. M. Curtis; T. B. Davis; Spencer C. Dickerson, 370th Infantry, (Specialist, eye, ear, nose, throat); Dragoo Hickman; E. A. Draper; W. H. Dyer; D. B. Credberry; William W. Felder; Robert E. Foster; Joathan Gibbs; J. M. Gill; Lucius Gilmore, 365th Infantry; Fenton Goodson; C. M. Gloucester; Earnest M. Gould; Royal Grubbs; William A. Harris; H. A. Herrott; W. J. Howard; D. Hickson; Orlando W. Hodge; Eldridge J. Hurt; Walter Jackson; R. M. Johnson; C. E. Jones; E. H. Jones; Homer B. Johnson; Thomas C. Kingsley; Max E. King; James Lawson, 370th Infantry; C. H. Laws; J. L. Leach; Chester S. Macbeth; E. N. McLaughlin; A. J. McDonald; Moses Montgomery; Isaac Moore; J. S. Martin; Homer E. Nash; Hudson J. Oliver; Charles C. Owens; James A. Owens; James N. Ponder; George W. Pugh; Frank B. Ralford; J. N. Rucker; C. M. Gloucester; L. L. Rogers; E. T. Ransom; Jackson Southerman; Troy Smith; Egbert Scott; Altha Springer; Leonard Stoval; F. K. Slaughter; Estll Y. Strawn; Park Tancil, 370th Infantry; J. N. S. Taylor;

174 WITH THE RED HAND OF FRANCE

Howard Thompson; T. C. Tinsley; F. D. Thurman; William M. Wallace; James C. Wallace; J. I. A. Webb; L. E. Walker; John H. Williams, 365th Infantry; R. J. Wilson; James M. Whittaker; Johnson C. Whittaker; Lule Wright, Thomas Zuber, 365th Inf.

DENTISTS—FIRST LIEUTENANTS

Clarence C. Bailey; A. S. Brock; T. C. Brock; William F. Brown; E. J. Cobb; R. French; Edward L. Grant; H. D. Howell; S. P. Jones; E. L. Jones; Raymond King; Leonard W. Lewis; McMurry.

NEGRO CHAPLAINS IN UNITED STATES ARMY DURING THE WORLD WAR

James B. Adams; William T. Amiger; Frank R. Arnold; William Bell; J. W. E. Bowen, Jr.; William S. Bradden; Frank W. Brown; Alfred G. Casper; Monroe S. Caver; Ellis A. Christian; Matthew W. Clair, Jr.; John T. Clemons; Henry M. Collins; Thomas Elwood Davis; Albert S. Dinsmore; James Edwin Duggill; Richard A. Greene; Eugene H. Hamilton; A. Huntington Hatwood; Arrington S. Helm; John Acton Hill; Theo Blair Hunt Jr.; Charles T. Isom; Matthew M. Jefferson; R. W. Jefferson; Lincoln C. Jenkins; B. H. Johnson; Edgar A. Love; Needham M. Means; F. D. L. McDonald; Lewis A. McGee; Gammon R. Morris Robert G. Morris; Allen O. Newman; John W. Ovieta; Cornelius G. Parks; George C. Parker; Arthur E. Rankin; Hugh A. Rogers; Benj. C. Robeson; George A. Rosedom; F. C. Shirley; James T. Simpson; George A. Singleton; Isaac C. Snowden; George A. Thomas; Charles Y. Trigg; T. W. Wallace; Noah W. Williams; C. R. Winthrop; Elkin O. Woolfolk; Max Yergen.

SOME OF THE DISTINCTIONS CONFERRED UPON NEGRO TROOPS FOR BRAVERY AND HEROISM IN ACTION

HEADQUARTERS, 317TH ENGINEERS, A. E. F.
A. P. O. 766, Mobile.

February 3, 1919.

General Orders

No. 7.

1. Pursuant to orders from General Headquarters, American Expeditionary Forces, this regiment moves to a port of Embarkation for early return to the United States.

2. On the eve of departure of this Regiment from France, it is fitting that the Commanding Officer should address the Regiment in orders covering its work overseas. The Regiment came overseas on a stern duty and

with a trust imposed in it by the people of the United States of America. You have been true to that trust in the fullest sense and you can return home and face the people of our country with a proud consciousness that your work has been of a high and efficient order. For more than a hundred the Corps of Engineers has maintained a proud record of achievement, whether in peace or war, from the blazing sun of the tropics to the eternal ice and snow of the Arctic regions, and it is a pleasure to be present as well as to the former commanding officer of the regiment to be able to say that your work has been in accordance with the best traditions of Engineer Service.

3. The meritorious work of the regiment as a part of the 33rd Corps of the 7th French Army in the VOSGES at FRAPELLE, LAFONTANELLE, LESSEUX and other points in the ST. DIE SECTOR; and as a Corps regiment of the First Army Corps, First American Army Corps, First American Army from September 25, 1918, to and after the close of hostilities on November 11, 1919, in the ARGONNE FOREST, at NEUVILLY, BOURIELLES, CHEPPY, VARENNES, FOUR DE PARIS, ABRI DE CROCHET, LA BESOGNE, LANCON, GRAND PRE, ST. GEORGES, LE MORT HOMME, BRIQUENAY and BUZANCY, in the ARDENNES—is deserving of the highest commendation.

A Communique from General Pershing:

Reports on hand show a notable instance of bravery and devotion shown by two soldiers of an American colored Regiment operating in a French sector. Before daylight on May 15th, Private Henry Johnson and Private Roberts, while on sentry duty at some distance from one another, were attacked by a German raiding party, estimated at twenty men, who advanced in two groups, attacking at once from flank and rear.

Both men fought bravely in hand-to-hand encounters, one resorting to the use of a bolo-knife after his rifle jammed, and further fighting with his bayonet and butt became impossible. There is evidence that at least one and probably a second German was severely cut. A third is known to have been shot.

Attention is drawn to the fact that the colored sentries were first attacked and continued fighting after receiving wounds and despite the use of grenades and a superior force. They should be given credit for preventing by their bravery the capture of any of our men.

The Citation of the 369th Infantry.

Under command of Colonel Hayward, who, though injured, insisted on leading his Regiment in the battle, of Lieutenant Colonel Pickering, admirably cool and brave, of Major Cobb (killed), of Major Spencer (grievously wounded), of Major Little, a true leader of men, the 369th R. I. U. S. engaging in an offensive for the first time in a drive of September, 1918, stormed powerful enemy positions energetically defended, took after heavy fighting the town of S—, captured prisoners and brought back six cannon and a great number of machine guns.

**HEADQUARTERS 370TH U. S. INFANTRY,
AMERICAN EXPEDITIONARY FORCES**

December 8th, 1919.

General Orders

No. 19.

1. The following order of the 59th Division, Army of France, is published to the regiment and will be read to all organizations at first formation after its receipt:

GENERAL ORDERS NO. 4785.

Officers and Soldiers of the 370th R. I. U. S.:

You are leaving us. The impossibility at this time that the German Army can recover from defeat,—the necessity which is imposed on the people of the Entente of taking up again a normal life—leads the United States to diminish its affectives in France. You are chosen to be among the first to return to America. In the name of your comrades of the 59th Division, I say to you: "Au revoir in the name of France, thank you."

The hard and brilliant battles of CHAVIGNY, LEURY, and the BOIS DE BEAUMONT having reduced the effectives of the Division, the American Government generously put your regiments at the disposition of the French High Command in order to reinforce us. You arrived from the trenches of the Argonne.

We at first, in September, at MARE-UIL-SUR-OURCQ, admired your fine appearance under arms, the precision of your review, the suppleness of your evolutions that presented to the eye the appearance of silk unrolling its wavy folds.

We advanced to the line. Fate placed you on the banks of the AILETTE, in front of the BOIS MORTIER. October 12th you occupied the enemy trenches ACIER and BROUZE. On the 13th we reached the railroad of LAON-LA-FERE—the forest of SAINT GOBAIN, princi-

pal center of resistance of the Hindenburg Line was ours.

November 5th the SERRE was at last crossed—the pursuit became active. Prout's Battalion distinguished itself at the SAL ST. PIERRE, where it captured a German battery. Patton's Battalion crossed, the first, the Hirson railroad at the heights of AUBENTON, where the Germans tried to resist. Duncan's Battalion took LOG-NY, and carried away by their ardor, could not be stopped short of GUE d'HOSSUS, on November 11th after the armistice.

We have hardly had the time to appreciate you, and already you depart. As Lieutenant Colonel Duncan said November 28th, in offering to your Regimental colors as a proof of your love for France, as an expression of your loyalty to the 59th Division and our army, you have given of your best and you have given it out of the fulness of your hearts.

The blood of your comrades who fell on the soil of France mixed with the blood of our soldiers, renders indissoluble the bonds of affection that unite us. We have besides the pride of having worked together at a magnificent task, and the pride of bearing on our foreheads the ray of a common grandeur.

A last time—Au Revoir.

All of us of the 59th Division will remember the time when the 370th R. I. U. S. under the orders of the distinguished Colonel Roberts, formed a part of our beautiful Division.

GENERAL VINCENDON,
Commanding the 59th Division.

LIST OF INDIVIDUALS CITED FOR BRAVERY

325th FIELD SIGNAL BATTALION—Sergeant R. B. Atwood, Private C. E. Bokiny.

349th Field ARTILLERY—Sergeant Calvin Le Compta, Private Otis Franklin, Private Alfred Patterson, Private William Patterson, Private Agustis Wilkerson. Total 5.

350th MACHINE GUN BATTALION—Private Lewis Watkins.

351st MACHINE GUN BATTALION—Wagoner Tom Brown.

365th INFANTRY—Captain John H. Allen, Captain W. W. Green, First Lieutenant Leon F. Stewart, First Lieutenant Frank F. Drye, First Lieutenant Walter Lyons, First Lieutenant Bravid W. Harris, First Lieutenant Benjamin F. Ford, Second Lieutenant George L. Gains, Second Lieutenant Russel C. Atkins, Sergeant Richardson W. White, Sergeant John Simpson, Sergeant Robert Townsen, Sergeant Solomon D. Colston, Sergeant Ran-

som Elliot, Sergeant Rufus Bradley, Supply Sergeant Charles Jackson, Corporal James Conley, Private First Class Jesse Cole, Private First Class Earl Swanson, Private First Class James Hill, Private First Class Charles White, Private George Chaney, Private R. M. Breckenridge, Corporal Russel Pollord, Bugler Junious Jules. Total 26.

366th INFANTRY—Sergeant Isaac Hill, First Lieutenant John Q. Lindsey, First Lieutenant William Jones, First Lieutenant W. H. Clark, Second Lieutenant A. R. Fisher, First Sergeant Eugene Love, Sergeant Gus Hicks, Sergeant Richard Parker, Sergeant James E. Green, Corporal J. H. James, Corporal Fred Lewis, Corporal Ben L. Moore, Bugler Irvin Turpin, Private First Class Fred Littlejohn, Private First Class Ed. Martin, Private First Class Riley Porter, Private First Class Ames Robertson, Private First Cl. Mathew Rose, Private First Class Lonnie Rice, Private First Class Richard Wells, Private First Class Henry Williams, Private Conce Cooks, Private Willis Coles, Private Charles Dozier, Private F. W. Franklin, Private Harvey Hite, Private Leonard Morton, Private Clarence Leake, Private Van Horton, Private Earl Pursley, Private Joe Williams, Private Roy A. Browne, Private Edward Merrifield, Private Alexander Hammond, Private George Bell, Private William Clincy, Private Thomas Rivers, Lieutenant Malilleu Rush, First Lieutenant Edward W. Bates. Medical Corps; Sergeant Walter L. Gross. Total 40.

367th INFANTRY—Entire First Battalion cited for bravery and awarded Croix de Guerre. Reports was it entitled every officer and man to wear this French decoration. This honor was accorded because of the service performed by this battalion in the drive on Metz on Sunday and Monday, November 10 and 11. The engagement was one of the last of the war. The battalion went into action in a valley commanded by heavy German guns, and covered the retreat of the Fifty-sixth Regiment. In so doing it sustained heavy losses.

368th INFANTRY—Captain T. M. Dent, Captain T. E. Jones, (Medical Corps); Captain R. A. Williams, First Lieutenant Edmond Bates, First Lieutenant Robert L. Campbell, First Lieutenant Charles G. Young, Second Lieutenant Nathan O. Goodloe, Second Lieutenant Norwood C. Fairfax, Private John Baker, Private Thomas H. Davis, Private Edward Saunders, Private Edward H. Handy, Private Bernard Lewis, Private Joseph James. Total 14.

369th INFANTRY—Sergeant A. A. Adams, Corporal John Allen, Corporal Ferrandus Baker, Sergeant E. W. Barrington, Sergeant E. W. Barron, Sergeant William D. Bartow, Corporal Fletcher Battle, Corporal R. Bean, Corporal J. S. Beckton, Private Myril Billings, Sergeant Edward Bingham, Private Arthur

Brakaw, Private Martin H. Briggs, Private E. D. Brown, Private T. W. Brown, Private William H. Bunn, Sergeant William Butler, Private J. L. Bush, Sergeant Joseph Carmen, Corporal T. Catto, Corporal G. H. Chapman, Sergeant Major Benedict W. Cheesmam, Private M. D. Links, Sergeant B. Lucas, Private Lester A. Marshall, Private Lewis Martin, First Sergeant A. J. McArthur, Private Herbert Mc Girt, Private Elmer McGowan, Private L. McVea, First Sergeant H. Matthews, First Sergeant Jesse A. Miller, First Sergeant William H. Miller, Sergeant E. Mitchell, Private E. Mitchell, Private Herbert Mills, Corporal M. Molson, Sergeant W. Morris, Sergeant G. A. Morton, Sergeant Samuel Nolan, Sergeant C. L. Pawpaw, Private Harvey Perry, Sergeant Clinton Peterson, First Sergeant John John Pratt, Sergeant H. D. Primas, Sergeant Robert Collins, Sergeant William H. Cox, First Sergeant C. D. Davis, Private P. Demps, Wagoner Martin Dunbar, Corporal Elmer Earl, Private Samuel Fannell, Captain Charles W. Fillmore, Sergeant R. W. Fowler, Private Rowland Francis, Pvt. B. Freeman, Pvt. Wm. A. Gaines, Waggoner Richard O. Goins, Private J. J. Gordon, Private Stillman Hanna, Private High Hamilton, Private G. E. Hannibal, Private Frank Harden, Private Frank Hatchett, Corporal Ralph Hawkins, Supply Sergeant William H. Holliday, Corporal Earl Horton, Private G. Howard, Sergeant Major Clarence C. Hudson, Private Earnest Hunter, Sergeant S. Jackson, Corporal Clarence Johnson, First Sergeant De F. Johnson, Private Gilbert Johnson, Private Henry Johnson, Sergeant Hezekiah Johnson, Sergeant George Jones, Sergeant James H. Jones, Private Smithfield Jones, Private J. C. Joynes, Private D. W. Lewis, Private Jeremiah Reed, Private John Rice, Sergeant Samuel Richardson, Sergeant Charles Risk, Private F. Richie, Private Needham Roberts, Corporal Fred Rogers, Private George Rose, Sergeant Percy Russell, Sergeant L. Sanders, Private William Sanford, Private Marshall Scott, Private A. Simpson, First Sergeant Bertrand U. Smith, Private Daniel Smith, Sergeant Herman Smith, Corporal R. W. Smith, Sergeant J. T. Stevens, Corporal Daniel Storms, Corporal T. W. Taylor, Sergeant Lloyd Thompson, Sergeant A. L. Tucker, Sergeant George Valaska, Corporal Charles Warren, Sergeant Leon Washington, Private Casper White, Sergeant Jay White, Sergeant Jesse J. White, First Sergeant C. E. Williams, Private Robert Williams, Sergeant Reaves Willis, Private H. Wiggington, Sergeant L. Wilson, Private Tim Winston, Sergeant E. Woods, Sergeant George Wood, Sergeant E. C. Wright. Total 120.

370th INFANTRY (Captains)—John H. Patton, Chester Sanders, Samuel R. Gwynne, John T. Prout, Devere J. Warner, William D. Crawford, George M. Allen, James H. Hall, Stuart Alexander, Matthew Jackson, James H. Smith. (Lieutenants): Park Tancil, Osceola Browning, George Lacey, Frank Robinson,

Cladius Ballard, Charles C. Jackson, Harry N. Shelton, Henry P. Cheatham, Stanley M. Norvell, Roy B. Tisdell, Thomas A. Painter, Lawson Price, Lincoln D. Reid, Elber J. Meyers, Benote Lee. (Sergeants): Matthew Jenkins, Cecil Nelson, Howard Templeton, Emmett Thompson, Edward Fisher, Lester Posie, Norman Henry Clarence B. Gibson, Ralph Gibson, Russell H. Clem, Clarence T. Monroe. (Corporals): Charles T. Brock, James R. Brown, Lewis Warner, Isaac Valley, Henry Gaillard, Maceo A. Tervalon, Joseph Henderson, Elma Laurent, Harry Brown, William Stevenson. (Privates): Robert Pride, Nathaniel White, George B. White, Howard Sheffield, Ulysses Sayes, Cornelius Robinson, William Cuff, Hugh Givens, Bee McKissie, Leroy Davis, William G. Hurdle, Robert Dorsey, Hiram J. McKinney, Arthur Johnson, Rufus Pitts, Deery Brown, Jonas Paxton, Harry Pearson, Paul Turlington, Reed J. Brown, Paul Johnson, Reedy Jones, Alonzo Keller, Lavern, Massey, Jones Nevees, Ira Taylor, Jesse Ferguson, Alonza Walton, Thomas Powell, Spirley Irby, Alfred Williamson, Robert W. Williams. Total 83.

371st INFANTRY—Sergeant Lee R. McClelland, Corporal Eyre, Corporal Sandy E. Jones, Private William Boston, Private Reuben Bunett, Private Charles Butler, Private Junius Diggs, Private Ellison Moses, Private Bruce Stoney, Private Tillman Webster. Only ten names of the eighty-five individuals awarded decorations in the 371st were obtainable.

372nd INFANTRY—Lieutenant Harvey W. Wilson, Sergeant Charles Jones, Sergeant Major Louis S. Tenette, Corporal Clarence Van Allen, Sergeant Depew Preyer, Sergeant Jones Marshall, Sergeant Robert Terry, Corporal Clifton Merriman, Corporal Clifton Crawford, Private George Byrd, Private Junior Johnson, Private Kenneth Lewis, Private Mack Watson, Corporal Benjamin De Berry.

Total awards to individuals of regiment for gallantry: Medaille Militaire, 4; Distinguished Service Cross, 8; Croix de Guerre, 90; Total 102.

Only fourteen names of the 102 individuals awarded decorations in the 372nd were obtainable.

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taken from the Building**

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